Dear Parents,

A new semester is a time of new resolve and new efforts — a chance to begin anew. I urge you to continue to support and encourage your student. If he or she did well last fall, celebrate the achievement. If performance was less than desired, then suggest a visit to the Dean’s Office to ask about the many available support services. In either case, your love and attention are fundamental.

One purpose of the Parents Newsletter is to keep you informed about the life of the University. This issue discusses Greek organizations on campus and the opportunities for students to develop leadership skills, as well as the possibility of creating lifelong friendships. Also, the Office of Public Safety shares news about the recent security improvements on campus and the important role that each member of the FDU family plays in safety and security. Read, too, the words of our student scholars as they talk about the importance of endowed scholarships and how donated scholarship funds are helping them reach their personal and academic goals.

Last year was a wonderful year at Fairleigh Dickinson University. Campus improvements continue to be on a fast track. This past fall, lecture halls and residential halls on both campuses received much-needed upgrades. We opened new artificial turf athletic fields at the Metropolitan Campus and the College at Florham, greatly expanding available field time for our NCAA and intramural athletes.

I encourage you to become involved with our Parents Council. This terrific organization has become very active in recent months and has supported many important student and University events. Earlier in the academic year, I had the pleasure of meeting many of our parent volunteers who were my guests at the United Nations Pathways Lecture Series. They, along with many students, participated in a discussion about the European Union with the former U.N. ambassador Pierre Schori. As always, it was a fascinating and educational evening.

My hope is that your sons and daughters take full advantage of the many wonderful learning opportunities offered at the University. For most, the university experience is a once-in-a-lifetime event that remains with us and shapes us forever. You can continue to play a part in the lives of our students and the life of the University through the Parents Council. We welcome your participation and value your input.

Warmest regards,

J. Michael Adams
President

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Keeping Our Communities Safe

Fairleigh Dickinson University’s department of public safety is committed to protect and secure the University’s campuses, its students and the University’s facilities. The department enforces University policies in support of the academic mission of the University, providing professional safety and security services to the academic community and educating its members on safety measures are two of the department’s most important responsibilities.

The department of public safety consists of trained campus public safety officers who patrol campus on a regular basis, 24 hours, seven days per week. Public safety officers are trained in the appropriate security procedures including emergency response, CPR, first aid, fire safety and crisis intervention. The officers patrol in vehicles and on foot and bicycles. There also are a number of stationary posts.

All campus buildings and parking areas are the private property of Fairleigh Dickinson University. All persons and motor vehicles, including motorcycles and mopeds entering the private property of Fairleigh Dickinson University, are bound by all state traffic laws and University parking signs and parking regulations when driving or parking a vehicle on campus. All parking lots on campus are permit-parking only, and all vehicles on campus must be registered with the department of public safety.

In addition, the department of public safety provides crime prevention programs to the Fairleigh Dickinson community. The department often posts and distributes literature to the academic community, provides safety escorts and offers unique educational programs. One such example is Operation ID, a program that enables members of the community to engrave personal property in an effort to prevent theft.

The University director of public safety embraces an open-door policy. Every member of the public safety staff is readily available to meet with any member of the University community to discuss a problem or concern they may have or to simply serve as an adviser on campus issues related to safety on campus.

Comments and suggestions may be submitted to David Miles, University director of public safety, at (201) 692-2222 or (973) 443-8888.
To Go Greek or Not to Go Greek? That is the question.

by Michael Smallis, Associate Dean of Students, College at Florham

The start of your student’s college career is one of the most exciting times of his or her life. Your son or daughter will have many opportunities for involvement on campus, and fraternity and sorority membership can provide a wonderful sense of community and friendship. Having been active in a fraternity when I attended college, I remember the questions that my mom and dad were asking with regard to my joining a Greek organization. Here are a few things every parent needs to ask.

As a parent, what should I do to support my son’s or daughter’s decision to join a Greek letter organization?

Be supportive of that decision and encourage your student to find out as much as he or she can about the prospective group(s). Consult with your student as you feel comfortable about this decision, but in the end let him or her make the choice for his or her membership. After the decision is made, talk with your daughter or son periodically and ask them about their Greek experience. Feel free to contact the student life staff if you would like additional information about a particular group.

As a parent, what’s my role during rush?

If your son or daughter is thinking of rushing at Fairleigh Dickinson University there are several things you can do as a parent to make his or her choice easier. (What is rush? Rush or recruitment is the organized period of selecting prospective new members. It is a mutual selection process.)

• Keep an open mind ... Greek life is not for everyone. Just because you may have been a fraternity or sorority member, doesn’t mean that it is the right thing for your son or daughter. Conversely just because you were not Greek doesn’t mean that it isn’t the right choice for your student.
• Students need support throughout the process of rush and pledging/new member education. They may need advice or a word of encouragement through the process.
• Talk to your son or daughter beforehand about the financial obligations. Determine who is going to pay for what and where the limits are. Take the time to find out the financial commitments for the groups that your student is considering as dues can vary dramatically between houses.
• Fraternities and sororities are different on every campus, so groups that may have been strong or weak on the campus where you went to school may not have the same reputation at FDU. Let your son or daughter choose the group that he or she feels most comfortably joining.
• Encourage your son or daughter to become involved in a variety of clubs and organizations.
• Know that the system of fraternity/sorority recruitment is competitive. Not everyone who wants to be Greek will receive a bid.
• Ultimately it’s your son’s or daughter’s decision.

Aren’t fraternities and sororities just like the one’s shown in the movie “Animal House?”

Nobody likes stereotypes. Unfortunately, fraternity and sorority members have been categorized as elitist, spoiled, partyers, irresponsible and abusive since the showing of this movie. In reality, fraternities and sororities are values-based organizations dedicated to the development of character and lifelong friendships.

How will Greek membership provide social activities for my student?

The social life of fraternity men and sorority women can be very rich and rewarding, with friendships made that can last a lifetime and the development of social skills which will be useful to any adult. Fraternities and sororities provide activities which sharpen conversation techniques, conflict resolution skills and promote poise and a sense of social grace. All of the Greek letter organizations at Fairleigh Dickinson University advocate the legal, responsible use of alcohol by members, and both they and their national organizations, as well as the Greek life staff, work to ensure that this responsibility is taken seriously.

I want my son or daughter to succeed academically. Will his or her membership hinder those efforts?

The Greek community at Fairleigh Dickinson University strives for academic excellence and improved scholastic achievement. First-semester freshmen are not permitted to join Greek organizations. The minimum grade requirement for association with a group is a 2.35 with 12 earned credits, and each chapter has a grade point ratio requirement which members must maintain to be in good standing. Chapters also offer academic assistance for its members, providing study-hall areas and peer tutoring. Every chapter understands that its members are students first and provide recognition to those who excel and improve their academic standing. The University has recently established a chapter of the Order of Omega which honors Greek leaders for their academic and leadership skills.

What about the “pledging” process and hazing?

When students join chapters, they will participate in a period of orientation where they learn about the history and values of the organization and the University, as well as attend weekly business meetings (also referred to as “chapter meetings”). Hazing is opposed by all FDU fraternities and sororities and is not tolerated! Your son or daughter should never be asked to do anything he or she does not want to do. To report any incidents of hazing, students and parents can contact the Office of Student Life — at the College at Florham at (973) 443-8570 or at the Metropolitan Campus at (201) 692-2231 or the Dean of Students Office — at the College at

The Office of Student Life staff is the professional staff liaison to the Greek community, offering support, advice and guidance to governing councils, chapter officers, advisers, and members.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Office of Student Life — at the College at Florham at (973) 443-8570 or at the Metropolitan Campus at (201) 692-2231.
What are the benefits of Greek membership?

• A family away from home — Greeks find a supportive group of friends during college and for the rest of their lives.
• Greeks get involved in more activities than non-Greeks, i.e.; intramurals, Greek Week, formal dances, mixers, special theme events, etc.
• Greeks learn valuable leadership and interpersonal skills that they use throughout their lives.
• Greeks are exposed to internships and career opportunities through interaction/networking with alumni.
• Greeks help others who may be less fortunate through community-service projects and philanthropic activities.

Doesn’t membership cost a lot of money?

The perception that fraternities and sororities are only an option for “rich” students is widespread and false. Greek organizations are quite affordable and fees go to services that will positively impact students. Each chapter is self-supported through dues charged to all members. In the first year of membership, a few one-time expenses are assessed. First-semester costs are the most expensive, but will go down the following semester. Average dues for Interfraternity Council (IFC) and National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) fraternities and sororities average $150 to $250 a semester. Dues for National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) organizations have a higher first-semester cost, but reduce substantially and vary from organization to organization. Also, chapters have payment plans that can be arranged to ease that responsibility.

How much time does a chapter take up?

The time commitment varies from chapter to chapter, but the first semester is most time intensive as the new member goes through the chapter’s Education Program. The time spent in this program gives students the opportunity to develop their leadership and time management skills, learn about the history and tradition of the organization, develop friendships with their new member class as well as the rest of the chapter and allow them to become involved in other activities and organizations. After the initiation into the chapter, expectations will vary. Each chapter has weekly chapter meetings and other mandatory events (philanthropic, service and initiation) throughout the year, but they are planned well in advance. The majority of FDU Greek students attend class full-time, work and are active in their chapters!

Who actually is in charge of the organization, and is there outside support?

Students elected to officer positions manage the day-to-day operations of the organization. These officers are assisted by members serving on committees, so everyone is involved in and exposed to leadership positions. Each member learns cooperation, communication, and planning skills. Alumni act as advisers, and some chapters have alumni advisory boards that work with its members. Each group is governed by its international headquarters, which established their chapter’s regulations, and offers advice and direction through professional staff and volunteers.

The University’s close partnership with the United Nations produced another exciting semester of lectures by prominent diplomats. Following his presentation at the Metropolitan Campus, Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations Orlando Requeijo Gual, second from right, spoke with Nora Nichols, left, student; Samuel Raphaelides, second from left, professor of political science and history; and Ivanka Grigorova, right, student. Requeijo Gual discussed “Vanishing Borders and Human Rights,” emphasizing in particular the importance of the availability of adequate nutrition and the challenges of and possibilities for globalization. Afterward, he fielded questions on topics ranging from U.S.-Cuban relations to Cuba’s position on the war in Iraq and the relevance of the United Nations. (To view the lecture go to http://www.gig.org.)

Greek Glossary of Terms

Active An initiated collegiate member who is currently paying dues to an undergraduate chapter.
Alumna The graduated member of a sorority. Plural: Alumnae.
Alumnus The graduated member of a fraternity. Plural: Alumni.
Associate Member The term used to describe the period of time that an individual is learning about the chapter.
Bid A membership invitation extended to a prospective member.
Bid Day The last day of recruitment where a potential new member accepts the bid to become a new member.
Big Brother/Big Sister An active member chosen to assist and advise a new member.
Brother An initiated member of a fraternity. It is used as a term of address when an initiated member refers to another initiated member.
Chapter The local group of undergraduate students on a particular campus recognized by the University and the (inter) national organization.
Continuous Open Bidding The period in which any group may recruit and offer bids without scheduled parties or bidding.
Dry Recruitment The practice of not serving alcoholic beverages at recruitment functions.
Fraternity An individual men’s Greek-let-
ter organization.
Greeks Fraternity and sorority members.
Greek Organization A fraternity or sorority (social, honor or professional).
Independent Slang for a person who is not affiliated with a fraternity or sorority.
Induction The ceremony in which an individual begins to become a new member of a Greek organization.
Initiation A ritual-based ceremony that marks the acceptance of a lifetime commitment to the fraternity or sorority.

(continued on next page)
Financial Aid Note
from Associate Vice President for Admissions and Financial Aid Bernetta Millone

Financial aid is intended to make up the difference between the cost of attending a college or university and what a family can actually afford to pay. The approach to financial aid at Fairleigh Dickinson University is to process aid for students in an efficient, equitable and accurate fashion. We strive to provide each student with access to the maximum number of financial aid resources at the highest award level possible to enable each student to fund his/her education. Last year, Fairleigh Dickinson administered funds totaling $30 million, including $8 million distributed to new students. In order to be considered for the highest award level possible, new and returning students should file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) no later than February 15 EVERY year. Financial aid awards are processed annually and are offered based on continued financial need, enrollment status, availability of funds and maintaining satisfactory academic progress.

At Fairleigh Dickinson, the financial aid staff is there to assist in financing your student’s education through the use of college work-study, scholarships, grants and low-interest loans. We know how to connect you with the help you may need.

Call us for an appointment.
College at Florham Metropolitan Campus
Office of Financial Aid Office of Financial Aid
285 Madison Avenue, M-MS1-03 100 River Road, T-KB1-04
Madison, New Jersey 07940 Teaneck, New Jersey 07666
(973) 443-8700 (201) 692-2363

First Chaîne Scholarships Awarded

The first scholarships awarded to hotel and restaurant management students by the Confrérie de la Chaîne des Rôtisseurs, the world’s premier gourmet society whose national headquarters is housed at the College at Florham’s Chaîne House, were presented at the campus during a Beaujolais Nouveau Celebration. From left, are Richard Wisch, associate dean and director, International School of Hospitality and Tourism Management; scholarship recipients Robert Waller, student; and Heather Boyle, student; Burton Hobson, chairman of The Chaîne Foundation; scholarship recipient Michael Breitenbach, student; and President J. Michael Adams.

Greek Glossary of Terms (continued)

Intake A term the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) uses when bringing in new members into the organization. Each NPHC chapter determines when they will conduct intake.

InterFraternity Council (IFC) The governing body of the National InterFraternity Council fraternities at FDU.

Legacy Someone whose mother, father, sister or brother is a member of a particular Greek-letter organization. Being a legacy does not guarantee membership.

Membership Intake Process (MIP) The joining of a NPHC organization. These organizations recruit members who have a certain number of college credits and grade point ratio.

Mixer A themed party between a fraternity and sorority.

Multi-Cultural Greek Council The governing body for the University’s historically Latino and African-American fraternities and sororities.

National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) The governing body that oversees FDU’s sororities composed of members from each chapter and an executive board.

National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) The umbrella organization for the nine historically African-American fraternities and sororities.

New Member A new member of a fraternity or sorority aspiring to become an initiated member.

New Member Educator A sister or brother responsible for overseeing the development of new members and their preparation for initiation. This individual serves as a liaison between the new members and the chapter.

Order of Omega A national honor society for Greek members who demonstrate outstanding leadership and superior academic performance.

Philanthropy An effort to promote human welfare. Philanthropic activity is one of the foundations of Greek-letter organizations.

Pinning See Induction.

Potential New Member A non-member who is eligible to participate in the recruitment process, visiting Greek organizations with an interest in possibility affiliating with one organization.

Preference Card A card that a potential new member signs at the end of formal recruitment, indicating the order of his/her preference for the sororities/fraternities from which he/she will accept bids.

Recruitment The organized period of selecting prospective new members. It is a mutual selection process.

Recruitment Counselor An upper class member from a fraternity or sorority chosen and trained to assist during formal recruitment events and to advise potential new members throughout the process.

RUSH See Recruitment.

Sister An initiated member of a sorority. A form of address used when initiated members refer to each other.

Sorority An individual women’s Greek organization.

Step Show A function where the members or new members of an organization perform synchronized steps.

Strict Silence This pertains only to NPC organizations. During this time, sorority women are not allowed to discuss anything about recruitment or individual sororities with potential new members except during scheduled recruitment parties.
**Scholarships: What They Mean To Our Students**

**Francis J. & Gail W. Mertz Scholarship**

Brian McCarthy, a College at Florham senior, hopes to pursue a career as either an investment banker or as a stockbroker. Brian, a finance major in the Silberman College of Business, truly appreciates the financial support of the Francis J. and Gail W. Mertz Scholarship. He said, “I finance my own education. Everything from tuition to books comes out of my own pocket. The scholarship has made FDU affordable and allowed me to go to my first choice college and later, spend a semester abroad at Wroxton College. The FDU experience has proven to be invaluable to me!” He added, “In my free time I can be found either substitute teaching or coaching Little League Baseball. I have been coaching since I was 15. It is my job to be a key motivator and be a source of energy for the children. For them, I am a calming older brother type of person who can relate to them more easily than some of the coaches.”

The Francis J. & Gail W. Mertz Scholarship Fund, established in 1999, provides financial support to academically talented students pursuing undergraduate studies at Fairleigh Dickinson University with high SAT scores from selected New Jersey high schools. The scholarship aids deserving students with the potential to serve in leadership positions as global citizens by making a Fairleigh Dickinson education more affordable. Renewal of the scholarship requires that the student maintains a minimum grade point ratio of 3.00 while completing a minimum of 24 credits as well as participation in campus and community activities. Brian has had the opportunity to meet his scholarship’s namesakes.

Francis J. Mertz, president emeritus of Fairleigh Dickinson University, served as president from 1990 until his retirement in 1999. Under his vision and leadership, the University experienced an academic and financial renewal which produced a new University-wide vitality and enhanced educational experience.

Lifelong residents of New Jersey, Mertz and his wife, Gail, have been committed to independent higher education. It is in recognition of their demonstrated concern and caring for students that the Francis J. & Gail W. Mertz Scholarship was established in their honor.

**Adrian Alexander Cummings Memorial Scholarship**

Keyonna Graham, a junior student at the Metropolitan Campus enrolled in the Silberman College of Business, never met Adrian Alexander Cummings, but is grateful for the acknowledgement of her hard work. “This is my first scholarship at Fairleigh Dickinson University, and I feel like I need to work even harder now. The Adrian Alexander Cummings Memorial Scholarship has given me the motivation to do just that!”

Adrian Alexander Cummings was a Fairleigh Dickinson University student, who tragically died February 20, 2003. Adrian’s family and friends have memorialized Adrian’s life by endowing the Adrian Alexander Cummings Memorial Scholarship to ensure that his natural spirit and desire to reach for one’s dreams could live on at the University he loved so much.

A graduate of Watchung Hill Regional High School in 1999, Adrian attended Fairleigh Dickinson University at the College at Florham. Anticipating to graduate from the Silberman College of Business with a degree in marketing, it was Adrian’s wish to continue his education at a competitive advertising school in Florida, the Miami Ad School. Unfortunately, his journey was tragically cut short, but his spirit and memory remain with his family and friends and the scholarship. Adrian’s passion for life continues to inspire and motivate his family and friends and the Fairleigh Dickinson University community.

Like Adrian, Keyonna plans to further her education by pursuing a master in business administration degree once she completes her undergraduate studies. “Continuing my education is definitely a priority for me. I plan to attend the accelerated MBA program at FDU and plan to secure an internship with a prominent marketing firm as I continue my education.”

Students who receive privately endowed scholarships often do not think of the men and women that helped make their dream a reality. Thousands of alumni, parents and friends of the University continue to invest in Fairleigh Dickinson’s future — our students — and on behalf of the students, we thank you!

If you are interested in learning more about privately endowed scholarships at the University, contact the Office of University Advancement at 201-692-7109.

**Wroxton Students Visit Scotland**

Students attending Wroxton College have the opportunity for off-campus excursions that form an integral part of the classes such as visits to Parliament, productions at the Royal Shakespeare Company and a long weekend in Brussels, Belgium. In addition, the college arranges trips to Scotland and the neighboring areas so students can explore on their own. Charles Garrity, standing, fifth from left, psychology and tutor in residence, accompanied students to Edinburgh, Scotland, and a visit to the Royal Yacht Britannia in Edinburgh. Standing from left, are students Kathryn Gallagher, Amanda Morrison, Brad Calosimo, Kristin Coleman, Carla Delucia, Adam Roth, Leigh Ann Decisco, and seated from left, Elise Fuscarino and Muslimah Shabazz.
Last March, a dedicated group of parents of FDU students formed the Fairleigh Dickinson University Parents Council. Parents from both New Jersey campuses volunteer their time to help FDU improve services to its extended families. The council initiated the Parents Newsletter and contributed to Family Weekend and Homecoming which attracted more than 3,000 alumni, parents and friends to cheer on the Devils’ football team as it competed in its first homecoming game on the newly renovated Robert T. Shields Field. This spring, the Parents Council will elect an executive committee with representation from the College at Florham and the Metropolitan Campus.

Janice Weiman, mother of a freshman at the College at Florham, says she joined the Parents Council “to ensure that I pursue every opportunity to contribute to the success of my son’s college experience. Parents that are not involved at Fairleigh Dickinson University are missing out on the wealth of knowledge, information and opportunity to make a difference!”

If you are parents of current Fairleigh Dickinson University students or alumni and would like to learn more about the Parents Council and ways in which you can get involved, contact Karen Lewis at 201-692-7017.