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Chi Eta Celebrates 3rd Homecoming Victory



Chi Eta Chapter President Chaz Vittitow leads FIJI, KD, and Farm House in a cheer at Big Red's Roar.

Make it three for three for Fiji. The Chi Eta chapter, in partnership with the Kappa Delta sorority and Farmhouse and Omega Psi Phi fraternities, won the 2010 Homecoming Week Championship.

The win marks Fiji's third Homecoming win in three years on campus, which Louisville senior brother and chapter president Chaz Vittitow said is a point of pride for the fraternity.

"Winning Homecoming takes a lot of work on everyone's part," Vittitow said. "Going three for three shows that we care, and if we're going to take the time to do something, we'll do it well."

Chi Eta Greek Events chairman Jared Coomes, a Newburgh, Ind. junior, said representatives from the organizations began

meeting five weeks before Homecoming festivities began.

"Our overall goals were to work well with the other organizations and get all of our guys to work together the whole week," Coomes said. "We wanted to win number three."

In keeping with the Homecoming theme of Thrill on the Hill, Chi Eta's float was titled "Death of the Streak," dedicated to WKU football snapping its long losing streak the week before.

The float featured school mascot Big Red emerging from a casket and throwing a football between a pair of goalposts.

Fiji, along with the other organizations, spent over four days straight building the float.

The Chi Eta brothers mainly pumped,



which was a process of folding tissue paper so it can be used to decorate the float.

Sophomore Kappa Delta sister Megan Burch complimented the Fiji brothers on their float work.

"Pomping definitely isn't the most fun thing in the world," she said. "But the Fiji brothers came early, stayed late, and worked hard the whole time."

Fiji placed third in the float competition.

Fiji also won the South Lawn Events Day, banner competition, and spirit stick at Friday evening's Big Red's Roar pep rally.

At Big Red's Roar the group all stood together in the lower level of Houchens-Smith Stadium wearing black shirts, holding red balloons, and yelling.

Then at once, everyone ripped

off their black shirts to reveal white shirts that showed the names of the four organizations and read "The Greatest Pairing in Homecoming History."

Soon after, it was announced that the group had won the overall Homecoming competition.

Chi Eta and its partners stormed the field to celebrate on the 50-yard line.

"I felt so much relief when they announced that we won," Coomes said. "It was great to know that all our hard work paid off."

While winning was a thrill, Vittitow said the brotherhood built in the process was just as rewarding.

"When you're supporting your brothers by working on a float, you're deepening fraternal bonds," he said. "Our brotherhood and hard work led to our performance."

Story By Brad Stephens (2013)



Above Left: Jared Coomes, the Chi Eta Greek Events Chair holds the Spirit Stick from Big Red's Roar where FIJI took first place. **Directly Above:** Epsilon Class brothers Will Owens, Sam Knott, and Ryan DeMemuth blow stadium horns, helping make noise to take first in Big Red's Roar, WKU's spirit competition the night before the homecoming football game.



How to Date an Epsilon

Fundraiser Brings in \$1,200

By Nick Bratcher (2014),
 Brandon Bowman (2010)

The Epsilon Class completed their pledge class project in November, raising \$1,200 for improvements in the chapter house. The class will soon write and submit a proposal to the Housing Corp. to explain their plans for house improvements. Current pledges to the Chi Eta Chapter, the Epsilon class conceived the idea for their project at a pledge class retreat.

“The initiated brothers who were at the retreat with the Epsilons encouraged their ideas, and they eventually settled on the auction concept,” Chapter Historian Josh Wiseman, an Elizabethtown junior said.

Date an Epsilon, as it was styled, was similar to the Date a Delta philanthropy from last semester.

“The auction works so well because the chapter has a bunch of fun getting to see a different side of the new



Epsilon Class brother Ben Aroh walks across the stage to greet his date with a rose after being auctioned off as a part of the pledge class fundraiser.

brothers, and the girls are always surprised too,” said pledge educator Bo Armstrong, an Owensboro sophomore.

The fundraiser, which took place in Garrett Ballroom on campus, saw 19 of the 22 pledges auction themselves for dates with girls in attendance.

Preceding the auction part of the event

was a question and answer session. Each question cost one dollar, which went to the overall total raised.

“A question-and-answer period allowed the audience time to ask questions of any of their potential dates,” pledge brother Dylan Ward said, an Owensboro sophomore who facilitated the event.

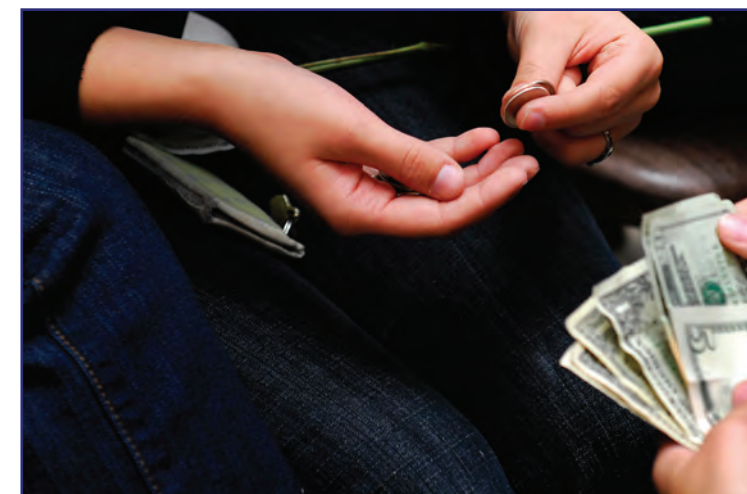
The night also featured a dance number of all the

dates choreographed by pledge brother Cody Hutchins and surprise auctions for dates with brothers Jordan Minton, Wade Haga, and Tyler Wittmer.

Overall, the night went better than even the Epsilons themselves expected.

“Not only did some of the dates go for double or triple what we expected them to sell for, but guys really acted respectfully during the event. I was surprised by the number of girls there and their enthusiasm to support our chapter,” pledge brother and Winchester freshman Austin Lanter said. “I thought it would be awkward, but the brothers were comfortable out there having a good time.”

In the spring, the Date a Delta event was a philanthropy benefitting the Alzheimer’s Association via Fijis Across America. However, when Chapter Treasurer Tyler Jury proposed the idea to the chapter of having pledge class projects for house improvements, the Epsilon class wanted to use their Date an Epsilon as a fundraiser. Each of the other classes already have or will similarly complete a house improvement project.



Sisters of Kappa Delta Sorority gather their money after helping a member place the winning bid for Epsilon pledge Jason White.



Luncheon with the Fijis

Thanking Parents and Graduates for their Support

By Nick Bratcher (2014)

From its beginning, the parents of the Chi Eta chapter of Phi Gamma Delta have played a large role in its success, from helping provide a chapter house to driving vans in the annual Rivalry Run.

The brothers of Chi Eta tried to keep that driving spirit alive they hosted a parents' luncheon on October 23.

Senior brother Nick Serroque, as parents' club coordinator, said he had a few aspirations in planning the luncheon.

First, he wished to introduce the parents of Epsilon class brothers to Phi Gamma Delta.

"The first goal was to make the parents of the Epsilon class feel comfortable and confident in their son's choice in pledging," Serroque said.



The Chi Eta Chapter opened its doors to over 100 parents and graduates on October 23, while close to 60 guests were in attendance for a Homecoming Brunch.

But with the stigma that is often associated with the word "fraternity," he had his work cut out for him.

Amy Knott, mother of freshman pledge brother Sam Knott, said she was wary at first.

Phi Gamma Delta.

"It reassured us that Sam was surrounded by good friends," she said. "It made me feel as though Sam really was at his home away from home. I left feeling so good about the opportunity that Fiji will provide for him."

Serroque also wanted to give parents the opportunity to meet and form bonds and to allow parents to meet the brothers.

Lightly, he joked there were really two main obstacles in achieving these goals: burnt chili and overcrowding.

"During the cooking process we burnt the second pot," Serroque said. "The good thing was that only a couple of people had to take from the second pot. And we ended up having enough room."

Demonstrating the event's overall success, Knott said she felt at home in the new chapter house and that "the fellas were all so welcoming."

"Sam is with a group of young men that are hard working, loyal to a cause, and loyal to their family and friends," she said.

"When Sam first mentioned joining the fraternity I was concerned because often you hear of the negative factors such as partying, which is a major concern of any parent," she said.

But Mrs. Knott said the luncheon encouraged a positive view of



Bob Anderegg (USC '71, WKU '10), House Corporation President, addresses a large crowd on the back deck of the chapter house.



Catching Up with An Alpha:

Q&A With Chris Drury

By Brad Stephens (2013)

Chris Drury (2010), a Bardstown native, is one of the Founding Fathers of the Chi Eta chapter. A member of the chapter's original Alpha Class, he also became one of Chi Eta's first graduate brothers upon graduation in May. I recently caught up with Drury to see how he was doing.

BS: So first of all what are you up to these days? Are you working somewhere?

CD: I've lived in Mobile, Ala. for the past five months now. I've been working with Hands and Feet Ministries, which is an international missions organization based in Georgia. Hands and Feet does everything from children and youth ministries to evangelism and service projects.

BS: Well how did you get involved with this organization, and what is your role?

CD: Between my junior and senior summers of high school, I took a mission trip with Hands and Feet. I got to know some of the leaders, and we stayed in touch. Since I've been working with them I've had the opportunity to take mission trips to Mexico. On those trips I've worked on houses for underprivileged people and helped with food and medicine programs.

BS: You seem passionate about helping people. Do you see yourself staying in the missions field?

CD: I'm looking at going to seminary next fall. Hopefully from there I'll be able to focus full-time on missions and church planning.

BS: What do you miss most about your undergraduate days as a Fiji?

CD: It's been tough being away from all of the brothers. I wish I could be around the chapter more often. The part that I really miss is that bond of brotherhood we all share. Whether we were participating in big events like Homecoming or the Rivalry Run, or just having a colony meeting, it was always awesome any time the brothers could all be together.

BS: As a Founding Father you obviously have a large stake in the success of your fraternity. Where do you want this chapter to go in the next several years?

CD: It sounds like the chapter is off to an awesome start, and I've heard nothing but good things about our pledge class. I'd like to see the chapter stay in the 60-80 brother range. That way we'll be big enough to do great things but close enough that the focus of the chapter will still be brotherhood. Hopefully the chapter will continue the legacy that's been started. Years from now when I visit WKU I want to hear people talking about the great things that Fiji is doing, and the prestige and reputation of the chapter.



Autumn Brotherhood

By Brad Stephens (2013)

Chi Eta brothers recently celebrated the autumn season with a pumpkin carving brotherhood event.

Russellville junior brother Luke Gilliam, who serves as Chi Eta's brotherhood chairman, said the inspiration for the event stemmed from a conversation with Elizabethtown junior brother Tyler Jury about





childhood Halloween memories.

They both remembered enjoying carving pumpkins, but hadn't done it in a long time.

Gilliam decided it would be an inexpensive brotherhood event, and the pumpkins could be used to decorate the outside of the chapter house.

"Everybody thought it was an awesome idea," Gilliam said. "It was one of our more successful brotherhood events."

Some brothers got especially creative.

Mount Washington freshman brother Cody Hutchins used the blank slate of his pumpkin to create a Transformer Autobot symbol.

Meanwhile, Louisville senior brother Brandon Bowman carved WKU's official cupola logo. He said carving the logo took almost three hours.

"I chose the cupola because it showed our WKU spirit, and looked great on the front porch of the house," Bowman said. "Plus it was something challenging to carve."

However, not everyone's pumpkin turned out so aesthetically pleasing.

Somerset freshman brother Kent Jones came into the event with little experience, but said he "thought it would be easy to carve a masterpiece." "I tried to make a Frankenstein character," Jones said. "But he somehow turned out even uglier."



The Brothers of Chi Eta enjoy a pumpkin carving contest at the chapter house as Halloween approaches.

Despite his apparent lack of carving skills, Jones, who is part of Chi Eta's Epsilon pledge class, said he enjoyed the brotherhood time.

"It was awesome being able to spend time with a bunch of great men who aren't trying to impress each other with how well they can carve a pumpkin, but are just participating because they love being together," he said.

Bowman said an opportunity to carve pumpkins with his brothers was a welcome break from a busy schedule.

"Sometimes we're so over programmed that we can lose sight

of our brotherhood," he said. "But something like carving pumpkins is a simple way to spend valuable time with each other."

Gilliam called brotherhood functions the chapter's most important events.

He added that he'd like to see Chi Eta pumpkin carving become an annual tradition.

"Very rarely outside of a business meeting setting do you get to gather with that many brothers," Gilliam said. "Those great brotherhood moments will be the ones I'll always remember."

Achieving Excellence

- **Bryan Hartzell (2013) Named IFC Treasurer**
- **Zack Ryle (2012) Earned Order of Omega**
- **Jake Ryle (2012) Named IFC Academic Chair**
- **3rd Place Intramural Flag Football**
- **4th Place in Intramural Handball**

Photos By Brian Campbell, Brandon Bowman Contribution



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