



From Alpha to Omega

On Oct. 23, Thiel College held its first-ever Greek Summit on campus. This special event brought together 260 Thiel College alumni, current students, staff and faculty to discuss Thiel's Greek system from Alpha to Omega—where it's been, where it is now and where it can go in the future.

The day kicked off with a presentation by Will Foran, the director of education and leadership development with the North-American Interfraternity Conference, a trade association of international and national men's fraternities. Foran's presentation focused on the importance of fraternity and sorority members making good choices, upholding the values of their organizations and always representing their chapters to the utmost at all times. Foran emphasized the importance of leadership in the Greek system at an individual and organizational level, stressing that Greek members should put their ritual first, brotherhood/sisterhood second and the social aspect of the Greek system last.

Following Foran's presentation, the attendees broke into smaller groups to hold roundtable discussions. Each group was given a question—such as “How can the administration better support the Greek system?”, “How should each chapter instill the value of chapter excellence in each new member?” and “How can sorority and fraternity recruitment be improved”—to discuss and generate ideas that could address that aspect of Greek life.

Constructive discourse and many good ideas came from the roundtable discussions. Some of those ideas included the creation of more activities

for Greek members; a philanthropy day in Greenville where each Greek house could showcase its national philanthropy; create a new “Greek Row” housing area; create larger events to attract and involve Greek alumni; strengthen the involvement of on-campus advisers with the Greek houses; institutional recognition of academic achievement at the chapters; strengthening the role of the Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic Council on campus; including Greek life in new student orientation; and much more.

Action on the ideas generated at the Summit will be driven by Greek students on campus, says Barbara Blue, director of Greek Life at Thiel. Thiel is committed to the Greek system on campus and will be supporting its growth in the future. At this point, the IFC and Panhellenic Council will be taking the lead to develop some short-term, long-term and parking-related goals for the Greek system with implementation to follow with support of the College administration.

The Greek Summit is not the end of Thiel's efforts to support and strengthen the Greek system. Additional summits will be held in the future, and Greek alumni who have lost touch with their chapters or who would like to get involved in Greek life at the College again are encouraged to do so. Alumni involvement is one of the best ways to strengthen a Greek chapter. Alumni who would like to get involved can contact Barbara Blue at 724-589-2192 or bblue@thiel.edu.



Pictured at top—Thiel College fraternity members wait for the first-ever Greek Summit to begin. Pictured above and left—Chi Omega alumnae and Phi Theta Phi brothers show their Greek pride during the summit.