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CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

Phi Kappa Tau Attains Highest Fraternal GPA

By: Jim Meehan

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The Academia

The brothers of Phi Kappa Tau’s Alpha Delta chapter here at Case Western Reserve University, earned a grade point average (“GPA”) of 3.412 for the fall semester of 2006, giving them the distinction of having the highest GPA among all campus fraternities.

At the Phi Kappa Tau National Convention in the summer of 2006, the chapter earned an Order of the Star honor for academic merit. Currently, the chapter also holds the Monroe Moonsick Memorial Award, which is bestowed upon the Phi Kappa Tau chapter with the highest cumulative GPA. This marks the second time in five years the chapter has earned this national award.

The chapter’s academic success would not be feasible without its scholarship programs. Alpha Delta recognizes that each brother is accountable for his schoolwork, but the chapter provides many ways to help everyone improve academically. The Phi Kappa Tau members at Case have experienced great success in the past with their Academic Accountability Partners Program, which facilitates increased studying through peer evaluation of classroom performance as well as encouraging exchanges of knowledge between brothers in similar academic fields. Moreover, the chapter maintains a quiet 24/7 study area in its Clarke Tower residence which provides an atmosphere conducive to studying. The scholarship program also advances social interaction between brothers and Case Western Reserve’s faculty and administrators, including the chapter’s faculty advisors, Dean Joseph Pieri and Dean Julie Amon.

For the remainder of the 2007 scholastic calendar, the brothers of Phi Kappa Tau have set the goal of not only repeating such educational accomplishments but improving their overall GPA as well.

What Can ESS Do For You and Your Chapter?

By: Jim Adolf

Educational Services for Students (“ESS”) has much to offer the Case undergraduate community. ESS runs SI sessions, peer tutoring sessions, as well as a number of other services. Most people are familiar with SI sessions, but if you are not, check out the ESS website at (ess.case.edu) to check if one of your classes has an SI. Peer tutoring is also offered for free to any undergraduate student. If you have a question on a difficult concept in class, need a quick review session before a test, or just want to talk about problem solving strategies, peer tutoring can be very helpful. If you want to sign up, just go to (tutortrac.case.edu) and follow the instructions.

Some of the less well known resources ESS has to offer are the great programs they can put on for you. If your chapter needs help with time management, learning to study more efficiently, test taking skills, or something completely different, contact ESS. ESS will work with you to either schedule a visit from an ESS employee, or to develop your own program that you can present. ESS is designed to help you, so even if you’re not sure whether they can help, ask anyway. The ESS main office is on Sears 4th floor near the PDELC.

Lastly, if you are just looking for some academic resources to put up in your house or elsewhere, ESS has compiled a list of internet resources that you can look through to see what applies directly to your chapter. Also, ESS has many ‘one-pagers’ that answer some of the most frequently asked questions.

HOW CAN I SET AND REACH MY GOALS?

Successful students frequently mention setting goals when they're asked how they do so well in college. However, reaching their goals doesn't just happen. These students make plans to accomplish their goals.

I'M IN SCHOOL, AND I DON'T HAVE ANY CONTROL OVER MY LIFE!

You may feel that your life is controlled by campus policies, by curriculum guides, and by course schedules. However, it is possible to achieve control over your life.

DO I NEED TO BUY ONE OF THOSE EXPENSIVE PLANNERS OR A PDA?

No. You don't need an expensive, leather-bound planner, or a PDA. But you do need to write down your goals. Seeing your goals in print helps you set realistic plans. If you don't have a planner, write your goals on a calendar or notebook.

WHEN AND HOW CAN I WRITE DOWN MY GOALS?

Anytime is a good time to write down your goals, but it's especially important to establish some goals at the beginning of the academic year and at the start of each semester. Some students find it helpful to discuss their goals with important people in their lives, including campus mentors, friends, and family. Whomever you go to should be a good listener. Discussing your goals will help you sort out what's really important to you. During these discussions, you may hear lots of advice. Listen to this advice, but your goals are just that—your goals. You need to decide for yourself what is important.

Set aside time to write down your goals.

Be creative during this process. List everything without worrying if your goals are worthy ones. If you like, use several sheets of paper, and label one "School," another "Personal," and perhaps another sheet "Career."

These headings are just suggestions.

You could write just one list and then sort out your goals into appropriate headings. You could also use the headings "Now" and "Later" to separate goals that require immediate attention from future goals. Next, decide which goals are crucial, and transfer those goals to a new sheet of paper. Then, think about what you need to do to accomplish your revised list of goals. You may need to read up on a topic, make an appointment to see someone, or take a class. Sometimes it's helpful to break a larger goal into some mini-steps that you need to do on a weekly and monthly basis. If you have a planner, write down these mini-goals on the appropriate weeks.

WON'T I FORGET MY GOALS ONCE I REALLY GET BUSY WITH MY STUDIES?

Post your goal list where you will be reminded of your plans. On the wall next to your desk or on your refrigerator are two good places for your list.

WHAT IF MY PLANS CHANGE?

Set aside time each month to take stock of how much you have accomplished towards meeting your goals. Don't be too hard on yourself if you have gotten sidetracked. Sometimes your plans change because your perspective changes. Adjust your plans to reflect your new outlook. Some students will complain that they are too busy to set goals. But wait a minute, aren't you in college to reach your goals?

For More Helpful Tips Contact the ESS Office

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