

# SHEPHERD UNIVERSITY FRATERNITY & SORORITY LIFE

*The Official Newsletter from the  
Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life*



## AT A GLANCE:

*Happy Mother's Day!*

*Congratulations, Class of 2020*

*Senior Shoutouts*

*Year at a Glance*

*Black Lives Matter*

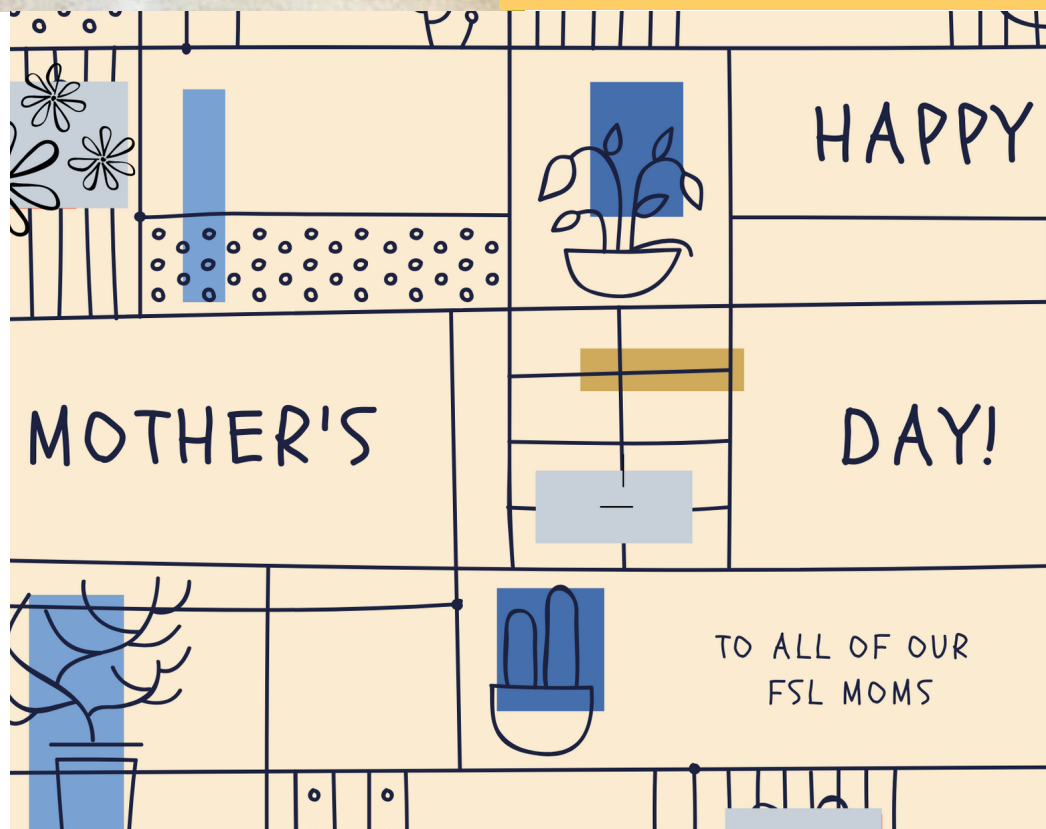
*Moving Forward*

*Call to Action*

*Civic Engagement*

## HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

The Office of  
Fraternity & Sorority  
Life wishes a happy  
Mother's Day to all of  
our FSL mothers!  
Thank you for giving  
us the opportunity to  
give your students a  
home in our  
community!



# CONGRADULATIONS CLASS OF 2020



Courtney Trivett, Alpha Phi Omega  
Krystelle Wertheim, Alpha Phi Omega  
Michaela Sencindiver, Alpha Phi Omega  
Noah Stottlemeyer, Alpha Phi Omega  
Alaina McDonald, Alpha Sigma Tau  
Samantha Whitman, Alpha Sigma Tau



Ethan Eister, Delta Sigma Pi  
James Myers, Delta Sigma Pi  
Noah Hertert, Delta Sigma Pi  
Patrick Ridings, Delta Sigma Pi  
Savanah Falls, Delta Sigma Pi

Cindy Moscote Rodriguez, Delta Sigma Pi, Sigma Sigma Sigma  
Abdoul Nasser Achirou, Delta Sigma Pi, Tau Kappa Epsilon



Anna Watson, Delta Zeta  
Carlee Gagliardo, Delta Zeta  
Danielle Stephenson, Delta Zeta  
Emily Turner, Delta Zeta

Hannah Densmore, Delta Zeta

Jade Sammons, Delta Zeta

Jeni Drummond, Delta Zeta

Kaelyn Jones, Delta Zeta

Lindsay Williams, Delta Zeta

Rebecca White, Delta Zeta

Adam Workman, Lambda Chi Alpha

Derek Maurer, Lambda Chi Alpha

Brandon Jenkins, Lambda Chi Alpha, Delta Sigma Pi

Brandyn Paine, Phi Kappa Tau

Hongui Pang, Phi Kappa Tau

Nick Owens, Phi Kappa Tau

William Montgomery, Phi Kappa Tau

Joshua Smith, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia

Kyle Colliflower, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia

Jonathan Prematta, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia

Kevin Mitchell, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia

Kayla Starr, Sigma Alpha Iota

Tara Foster, Sigma Alpha Iota

Alyssa Murray, Sigma Sigma Sigma

Keara Heck, Sigma Sigma Sigma

Maria Radcliffe, Sigma Sigma Sigma

Megan Sandoval, Sigma Sigma Sigma

Melissa Varros, Sigma Sigma Sigma

Portia Dobrzanski, Sigma Sigma Sigma

Francisco Mitchell, Theta Xi

Justin Jennings, Theta Xi

Kyle Stump, Theta Xi

Tim Joy, Theta Xi

Parker Coyer, Theta Xi



# SENIOR SHOUTOUTS



**Joshua Smith, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia**

Joshua signed a contract to begin working as the associate manager and artistic associate with the American Pops Orchestra, a non-profit orchestra in Washington, D.C. Congratulations, Josh!



**Melissa Varros, Sigma Sigma Sigma**

Melissa has received a position teaching fourth grade at Mill Creek Intermediate beginning Fall 2020! Congratulations, Melissa!

To be featured in the next Senior Spotlight, please send in your success stories to [aroush@shepherd.edu](mailto:aroush@shepherd.edu)

# YEAR

## AT A GLANCE

Our chapters work hard every year to meet their national and local standards while also upholding the values of Fraternity and Sorority Life through leadership, philanthropy, service, brotherhood, sisterhood, and academics. Below are the statistics of our chapters' successes and achievements of the 2019-2020 academic year.

### SERVICE

**5,382 HOURS**

### PHILANTHROPY

**\$12,418**

### NEW MEMBERS

**86**

### AVERAGE MEMBERS

**192**

### AVERAGE GPA

**3.13**

For more data,  
visit the Fraternity  
& Sorority Life  
website!

[www.shepherd.edu/greek](http://www.shepherd.edu/greek)

A graphic featuring the phrase "BLACK LIVES MATTER" repeated five times in a bold, sans-serif font, stacked vertically on a black background. The text is white and occupies the central portion of the image.

# WE STAND WITH YOU

# BLACK LIVES MATTER

# BLACK LIVES MATTER

# BLACK LIVES MATTER

# BLACK LIVES MATTER

# BLACK LIVES MATTER

# BLACK LIVES MATTER



# MOVING FORWARD

The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life supports the Black Lives Matter movement. We stand in solidarity against police brutality, systemic racism, discrimination, and oppression. We stand in support of our Black community, peers, and students. We also recognize the history of our fraternal system and commit ourselves, as a predominantly White community, to self-reflect and act to build a better, more inclusive, and equitable environment.

As advisors of Shepherd's chapters, we recognize the privilege we possess as two White, cisgender women, as well as our need to continue to educate ourselves to be stronger allies and advocates for our students. We are committed to using our platforms, voices, and resources to amplify the experiences, needs, and concerns of Black and other marginalized communities.

Here is what you can expect from us as we move forward into the upcoming academic year and beyond:

- We have identified a lack of research about our fraternal community's demographics and climate. In order to ensure our programming and services are meaningful, addressing blindspots or unrecognized issues in our chapters, and advocating for students, we will survey all fraternity and sorority members to assess current needs. We encourage all members to respond in order to help assess our community's needs.
- Using the data collected, we will pursue programming initiatives regarding but not limited to:
  - Education about historical and present racism in fraternity and sorority life
  - Mental health programs targeting the effects of racism
  - Education about mental health and self-care with regards to activism
- Our offices will continue to serve as safe spaces for any student in fear, distress, or in need of a listening ear. We are here for you.
- We will support your activism and will stand by you.
- In recognition of the importance of continuous learning, we will prioritize professional development around topics such as equity, inclusion, and social justice.
- We will challenge our students to educate themselves and others, advocate for and be agents of change, and become civically engaged in current events.

We recognize this list is incomplete and non-exhaustive and welcome your suggestions and leadership as we demonstrate the power of our community to be a force for positive social change. Our office is open to your input and ideas about how we can partner to strengthen our community. Please feel free to reach out to us!

With fraternal love and support,  
Rachael Meads & Alyssa Roush  
Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life



# **CALL TO ACTION**

## **WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

In addition to the action steps being taken by the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life, we challenge you, our student leaders, to actively stand up against racism and oppression in your chapters, on our campus, and in the greater world. The movement for justice, equity, and accountability must begin here at home as we examine our own practices and impact. It is important to recognize that our fraternal system was originally founded in a segregated world for the benefit of predominantly White, wealthy students. However, that is not the way your chapters should function today. Resist the urge to sit complacently on the sidelines or to assume that systemic racism does not impact you or your chapters. Call out oppression framed as tradition. Engage in honest reflection, reexamine your chapter's practices, challenge old ways of thinking, begin the process of self-education, and consider ways your chapters can help to build a more just world.

**GET EDUCATED.**

**TAKE ACTION.**

**VOTE.**

**RUN FOR LEADERSHIP ROLES.**

**BUILD RELATIONSHIPS.**

**BE CIVICALLY ENGAGED.**

**CREATE CHANGE.**

# CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Civic engagement means using your knowledge, skills, and values to create change in your communities and addressing public concerns. The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life is here to help you do that.

Below is a non-exhaustive list of ways to be civically engaged and aligned with the University and Office's core values.

## PHILANTHROPY/ SERVICE

- Volunteer with or begin philanthropic partnerships with organizations that support People of Color and the Black community such as:
  - Black Lives Matter
  - Trans Women of Color Collective
  - Black Girls Code
  - NAACP
  - National Black Justice Coalition
- More organizations can be found on our website.

## LEADERSHIP

- Be an advocate and active bystander
- Call out racist comments and jokes
- Ensure marginalized members' voices are represented during decision-making
- Lead by example--attend educational events and encourage others to as well

## INTEGRITY

- Hold yourself and each other accountable for upholding the values of your organization, the FSL community, and the University
- Make sure your actions are congruent with your words

## BROTHER/ SISTERHOOD

- Promote respectful treatment of all members, students, and community members at large
- Allow for a safe, judgment-free, open discussion forum for members to understand and discuss White privilege and its impacts on your chapter, the community, and the campus
- Practice compassion, understanding, and empathy

## ACCESSIBILITY

- Ensure your governing documents, policies, practices, and programs are accommodating for all members regardless of socioeconomic status, race, religion, etc. to ensure access and involvement
- Encourage your councils to implement sustainable policies regarding diversity

## ENGAGEMENT

- Collaborate with campus leaders and multicultural organizations to promote inclusion, education, and amplification of diverse perspectives on campus
- Implement educational training regarding implicit bias, diversity, power and privilege, etc.



# LEARNING

To better understand the issues before us, we are going to have to take the initiative to learn new things. Reject the desire to ask Black people, Indigenous people, or People of Color (BIPOC) to explain racism for you--find resources created by BIPOC to help educate yourself. Some non-exhaustive educational resources are listed below.

## TO WATCH:

- 13th
- American Son
- Black Power Mixtape: 1967-1975
- Clemency
- Dear White People
- Do The Right Thing
- Eyes on the Prize
- Free Angela & All Political Prisoners
- Fruitvale Station
- Higher Learning
- I Am Not Your Negro
- If Beale Street Could Talk
- Just Mercy
- Selma
- The Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution
- The Hate U Give
- When They See Us

## TO READ:

- Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria (Beverly Tatum)
- I'm Still Here (Austin Channing Brown)
- Whistling Vivaldi (Claude Steel)
- White Awake (Daniel Hill)
- How to be An Antiracist (Ibram Kendi)
- The Fire Next Time (James Baldwin)
- White Fragility (Robin DiAngelo)
- Me and White Supremacy (Layla F. Saad)
- The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness (Michelle Alexander)
- Just Mercy (Bryan Stevenson)
- The Hate U Give (Angie Thomas)

## TO LISTEN TO:

- White Lies (NPR)
- The 1619 Project (New York Times)
- Uncivil (Gimlet Media)
- Pass the Mic (The Witness Podcast Network)
- Seeing White

# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

We recognize and celebrate the intersecting identities in our community. We are here to help you in the best ways that we can. Below are some more non-exhaustive resource lists catered toward specific identities.

## FAITH-BASED

The Christian Community:

- Jennifer Harvey's "Dear White Christians"
- Jemar Tisby's "The Color of Compromise: The Truth about the American Church's Complicity in Racism"
- Lenny Duncan's "Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the U.S."
- Christena Cleveland's "Disunity in Christ"
- Curtiss Paul DeYoung's "Coming Together in the 21st Century"
- Michael Eric Dyson's "Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America"

The Jewish Community:

- A compilation of resources for and by Jewish organizations by Jewish Social Justice Roundtable:
  - Jewish Racial Justice Resources

## FOR EDUCATORS

- Anti-Racist Educator Self-Questionnaire and Rubric
- Anti-Racist Student Self-Questionnaire
- "Beyond Heroes and Holidays: A Practical Guide to K-12 Anti-Racist, Multicultural Education and Staff Development" (Enid Lee, Deborah Menkart, and Margo Okazawa-Rey, book)

## FOR PARENTS

- Raising White Kids (Jen Harvey, article)
- "A is for Activist" (Innosanto Nagara, children's book)
- "Brick by Brick" (Guiliano Ferri, children's book)
- "The Hate U Give" (Angie Thomas, book)
- "Helping Teens Stop Violence, Build Community, and Stand for Justice" (Allan Creighton and Paul Kivel, book)

Links to resources can be found on the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life website at [www.shepherd.edu/greek](http://www.shepherd.edu/greek)

All resource lists are inspired by original lists created by:

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