



OFSA REPORT

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Spring 2006: What's on the horizon?

Welcome back!

The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs (OFSA) hopes that you all had a great holiday season and are ready for the new year! After a great vacation I am now ready for a busy, yet great semester ahead with a lot of new initiatives and many new members after what we expect to be a busy recruitment season. This edition of the OFSA Report will include a lot of important dates, opportunities for involvement and special updates for you on the Expectations for Excellence program that kicks off this semester. We look forward to a great new year with many possibilities. Congratulations to all of the new chapter officers and we look forward to working with you this year!!!

STUDENT COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITY: PROJECT CARE



Project CARE (Coaches and Role Models for Empowerment) is a new initiative of the College at the University of Rochester, the Rochester City School District, and EnCompass. The comprehensive tutoring/role modeling program focuses on K-6 graders in need of academic and social support combines numerous educational and developmental models to encourage excellence from both students and volunteers.

The goals of the program are to empower students to achieve higher academic levels, encourage higher attendance rates, promote positive behavior, and to help students develop future aspirations and goals. UR student volunteers are coaches. As a Project CARE coach, volunteers will gain valuable civic, educational, and cultural experiences as well as have great personal satisfaction. Benefiting both school children and college volunteers the Project CARE program has an unlimited potential impact for participants and the community at large.

Beginning in January 2006 the Project CARE pilot program will be in three city schools: School No. 2, School, No. 14, and School No. 19.

All students are welcome to join the Rochester Center for Community Leadership (RCCL) for an informational session and refreshments:

**Friday January 20th, 2-4pm
Gamble Room in Rush Rhees Library**

For more information please contact Stacey Fisher at sfisher@admin.rochester.edu or go to <http://www.rochester.edu/college/rccl/care>

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Important Dates

Monthly All-Fraternity and Sorority President's Meeting

February 1 8pm
Wilson Commons 121

Expectations for Excellence Feedback Sessions with Jody, Matt, and Monica

February 7 Noon-1pm
February 14 Noon-1pm
February 21 Noon-1pm
February 28 11am-Noon

New Member Education Program (mandatory for all new Spring 2006 members)

Wed., February 15 and 22nd
7pm-9pm
or
Saturday, February 18
1pm-5pm

Expectations for Excellence Plan Due

March 1, 2006



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Special Fraternity/Sorority
Sponsored Theme Weekends or
Weeks for 2006

Panhellenic Association
Formal Recruitment

January 27-January 31

Fraternity Presidents' Council
Rush

January 23-February 9

“Sisterhood Week ”

February 6-11, 2006

Sponsored by:

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Expectations for Excellence Update: Fraternity and Sorority Chapter Advocates

The Fraternity/Sorority Advocates are faculty and staff members from various areas of The College including Academic Support, Admissions, Athletics, Dean of Students Office, Dean of the College's Office, and Student Activities, to name a few. Above all else, the Fraternity/Sorority Advocate will play a vital role in establishing a positive and healthy relationships between The College and its individual fraternities and sororities. An Advocate can expect this role to be both demanding and rewarding. Connecting fraternities and sororities to The College in meaningful, positive and frequent ways will serve to strengthen ties and create a sense of collaboration previously unseen in our relationship. The advocate is the important conduit between The College and its fraternity and sorority community: if functioning well, the synergy created by this connection is filled with potential. Each chapter will be matched with an advocate that will work with them throughout this inaugural year. Below is the description of the chapter advocates. Look out for more information to come on the selection of advocates soon!!!!

Various Roles of the Advocates

Coach: perhaps the most important role of the Advocate is to strike a continuous balance with organizations regarding challenge and support. Constantly pushing organizations to achieve excellence while, at the same time, providing sufficient guidance and encouragement for group and individual efforts is at the heart of the Advocate position.

Advisor: Advocates serve as the primary source of advice about how to meet the Expectations for Excellence, how to react to problem, etc. It is expected that the Advocate is the first person to whom a fraternity or sorority runs when seeking information about these expectations.

Referral Source: In keeping with the role of advisor as explained above, it is not expected that an Advocate has at his or her immediate disposal all information needed to provide advice in all situations. Rather, it is expected that the Advocate provide sound information about where in The College to obtain information and resources to help with problems, plans, programs, etc.

Mentor: Advocates should model the behavior they encourage in individuals. Maintaining appropriate sense of confidentiality, holding oneself accountable for one's actions, timeliness, following through on commitments and other such behavior is important for organizational members to see in an Advocate.

General Information

- There will be several points in the calendar year during which the role of an Advocate will become especially vital. One can expect to spend most time with fraternities and sororities at the end and beginning of each semester. The busiest period will be November through February, when annual reports are due and accreditation processes are conducted. In our inaugural year, initial yearly plans are due on March 1, 2006, and the accreditation process will begin in early November.
- Advocates are not expected to be agents of The College in discipline-related matters. However, Advocates are expected to urge organizations and the individual within them to be honest, and to take responsibility for their actions. In the event that an Advocate becomes aware of the fact that organizations or individuals present imminent danger to themselves or to others, they are expected to convey this information to appropriate University offices as quickly as possible.
- Advocates are expected to attend accreditation meetings with their respective organizations, but are not expected to play a role in presenting any materials. They will, however, be expected to answer questions from the accreditation team.
- Advocates do not write reports for their organizations, and they are not responsible for the timely submission of any materials, programs, or actions/inactions of their respective fraternities or sororities.
- Advocates must walk a fine line between their responsibilities to their respective organizations and The College. Their primary role, however is to serve as agents of The College in promoting a healthy, positive, and productive fraternity and sorority system. Primary direction, therefore, is given to the Advocates by the Dean of the College through the Dean of Students Office.