

Greek IMPACT retreat builds leadership

By Glenn Goldbaugh
Copy Editor

have as a Greek community.

Members of the Greek community recently spent three days at a retreat to learn how to strengthen Greek Life on campus through unity and leadership. Forty-six members of UNCP's Greek community attended the IMPACT Institute at Oak Island, N.C., from Feb. 5 to 7.

What is IMPACT?

IMPACT's website describes itself as "a campus based leadership institute designed to foster improved relationships among campus leaders through an intensive, interactive two and one half day program. The IMPACT curriculum emphasizes problem solving, leadership development, values-based decision making, effective communication and community development. It is expected that change will be the result of an IMPACT weekend. Participants determine what that change is through their participation in the institute."

Positives and negatives

According to Chris Blackburn, director of Greek Life, one of the main goals of IMPACT is to get the leaders within the Greek community to identify both positive and negative areas of the Greek community.

Once identified, IMPACT is designed to give the Greek leaders the tools and education to combat any and all problems. To do this, IMPACT requires each Greek leader to set a plan of action for the immediate future.

Joey Buoniconti, a junior and member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity, said he went to IMPACT because he sought to set the building blocks for Pi Kappa Alpha to talk with other Greek organizations. He also went to address the negatives within the University Greek community and seek help in correcting them, as well as to remind all Greeks of the positives within the University Greek community.

Matt Sperling, a freshman and member of Phi Mu Alpha fraternity, said that he learned the importance of helping each of them see their strengths and the potential that they

Build community

One of the goals is to build a sense of community among the Greek leaders present at IMPACT.

Sam Tobias, a sophomore and member of Phi Kappa Tau fraternity, said he went to promote Phi Kappa Tau and to show Phi Kappa Tau's overall willingness to be a part of the University's Greek community.

Liz Quinn, a sophomore and member of Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority, said she went as a way to get more involved with her sorority sisters.

Alex Noel, a freshman and member of Theta Xi fraternity, went because he wanted to learn more about how to help his fraternity.

Build unity

One main goal for the weekend was to foster Greek unity.

Noel said that we need to build more Greek unity after IMPACT. He said that to do this, we need to have stronger Greek organizations.

Buoniconti said that something he learned from IMPACT was about the need to reach out to other Greek organizations and getting everyone to realize that they all have the same goal of brotherhood and sisterhood.

Tobias said that something he learned was to make a universal stronghold of unity among all fraternities and sororities. He also said that another major goal of IMPACT was to strengthen the whole Greek community.

Endira Morales, a junior and member of Chi Upsilon Sigma, said she wanted to meet the other members of the University Greek community. She also went to IMPACT to get to know the other Greeks at the University and to bond with them.

Morales said that she learned that all Greeks need to see the reality of who they are as Greek organizations. She also said that they need to communicate more with each other and to interact more with each other.

Pasquale Locklear, a sophomore and member of Sigma Omicron Epsilon sorority, said that something she learned was that every Greek



Members of the UNCP Greek Life learn ways to make their campus community better during the IMPACT trip Feb. 5-7. A total of 46 Greek members traveled to Oak Island, N.C., for three days to learn how to strengthen Greek Life on campus.

needs to work with each other in unity.

Build leadership

Another main point was leadership. Many of the IMPACT sessions discussed this point.

Doug Taylor, a junior and member of Phi Sigma Nu fraternity, said he went because he wanted to "learn more about leadership and leadership skills."

Taylor said that something he took from IMPACT was "how leadership is important," especially within the Greek community.

Quinn said that she learned that, as Greek leaders, we need to strive to improve ourselves and our organizations, as well as to help to make the University a better campus.

Resources

This year's IMPACT was held with the goal of making participants aware of the resources they have on campus to build a stronger Greek community.

Locklear said she went because of the opportunity that IMPACT offers to bring back "the positive knowledge of the experience."

Locklear said that, after IMPACT, it is "now our individual responsibility to bring back all we have learned at IMPACT to our chapter." She also said that once we have brought back all we have learned to our individual organizations, it is the organization's responsibility to come together for Greek unity, for through

Greek unity, we can work together to improve the University.

Image

Additionally, one of the main sessions revolved around the image of Greeks on the University campus.

Now we need to unify, Buoniconti said, as Greeks. We need to break the communication barriers that separate us. We also need to realize that, as Greeks, we are all held accountable for what one member of any Greek organization does or does not do.

Quinn said that, after IMPACT, we need to take the lessons we have learned and seek to improve ourselves. After changing ourselves, she said, we need to work to

improve our individual organizations before we turn to then help improve the other Greek organizations. After doing this, she said, we then need to all turn to improve our Greek community.

Sperling said that, after IMPACT, it is now time to represent our individual chapters and to interact with other Greeks.

The next step

The biggest question from IMPACT has become what the University Greek community plans on doing after IMPACT.

Part of what the Greeks have to do now is to continue to foster the relationships established at IMPACT, Blackburn said.

Taylor said that we need to get more involved in our University, as well as each other.

After IMPACT, we need to show the University what we, as Greeks, are doing not only on our campus, but in the community as well, Morales said.

She also said that we need to display that, as Greeks, we strive to make a difference, not carry on the status quo.

Tobias said one thing that they need to consider doing is planning Greek functions that non-Greeks could attend.

He said that this would help establish that University students who are Greek are largely no different than a non-Greek student.

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