

**STUDENTS**



HANNAH YOWELL





# Greek Evolution

Mizzou's fraternity and sorority system is bigger, bolder and broader than ever before. Story by Brittany King

Since the University of Missouri's first fraternity, Phi Kappa Psi, was founded on campus in 1869, Mizzou's Greek organizations have simultaneously nurtured treasured traditions and adapted to the changing culture. With 58 chapters representing four councils, Greek Life now encompasses 27 percent of the student body and is more inclusive than ever before. Historically black (National Panhellenic Council) and multicultural (Multicultural Greek Council) organizations, as well as the LGBTQ-friendly Greek Allies, work together to create an environment that recognizes there is more than one way to be Greek. They invite diversity. They serve the community. They educate members about social issues. Sometimes they even eschew ornate formals and elaborate fundraising events in favor of barbecues, panel discussions, step shows and scholarship pageants. MU Greek Life in 2017 aims to ensure there's a place for all students to become part of a brotherhood and sisterhood that is truly unbreakable.

← Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. members perform in Jesse Auditorium at the annual Homecoming Stroll Off in October 2015. The Alphas took first place in the competition that year.





***“We had to learn to work together for the betterment of Greek Life.”***

***Delta Xi Nu founder Tiffany Melecio, BJ '16***

← Delta Xi Nu sisters Stephens College graduate Mokeila Hunter, left, and MU junior Jacqueline Thai, right, share a laugh before performing for Fall Fest in the Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center. Delta Xi Nu sorority is part of the Multicultural Greek Council, which was re-established in 2015. The sorority performs in the event every year.

→ Delta Xi Nu multicultural sorority member Marla Kolostov prepares to be unveiled during her new-member presentation May 2, 2015. Delta Xi Nu became an official chapter at MU on Oct. 27, 2016. Tiffany Melecio, BJ '16, was part of the founding group at MU and says bringing the organization to campus changed her life. “We were eight strong-minded women who wanted a say. We were different. We wanted visibility. We had to learn to work together for the betterment of Greek Life,” she says. “The process posed many challenges, and many administrators rooted for us. It was a journey I will never forget.”



TIFFANY MELECIO





Executive members of MU's Greek councils attended the Association of Fraternal Leadership and Values conference in Indianapolis in February 2017. They learned ways to improve Greek communities at MU and honed their leadership skills. The four councils — Panhellenic Association, Interfraternity Council, National Panhellenic Council and Multicultural Greek Council — share the mission to not only make their organizations more inclusive but also change the face of Mizzou Greek life. Members say it's a step in the right direction.



Kappa Pi beta fraternity members step at the Asian American Association's variety show at The Shack, inside the MU Student Center.

KAPPA PI BETA: TIFFANY MELECIO; CONFERENCE: COURTESY MU GREEK LIFE



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Andrew Pham and Lee Hyuk Jin, BS '16, grill burgers at the Mizzou Asian American Association's barbecue, one of several celebratory events held during AAA week in the fall. The group invites Alpha Phi Gamma and Kappa Pi Beta, MU's two Asian-interest Greek organizations, to participate.

Members of Lambda Theta Phi, a Latino fraternity, prepare to step at the annual Fall Festival, an event hosted by the Black Culture Center.

Sage Williams holds his fist in the air after performing a song by Tupac Shakur at Delta Sigma Theta's King of Hearts scholarship pageant March 10, 2017. Each participant performed selections by a hip-hop artist. At the end of the night, sophomore Tyler Brumfield was crowned King of Hearts for his performance as Chance the Rapper.

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. members take the stage at the Blue Note during the spring 2016 neophyte presentation, an induction ceremony for newly accepted members.

**First black fraternity founded at Mizzou in 1961 (Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc.)**

**First black sorority founded at MU in 1964 (Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.)**

**MGC founded on campus in 2006, re-established in 2015**



Members of Greek Allies and the LGBTQ Resource Center pose for a photo on Francis Quad-rangle during Mizzou's annual Coming Out Week. Greek Allies was established in 2013 by Julianne Sinak, BS HES '15, Kayley Weinberg, BA '15, and Lilly Kraus to bridge the gap between the LGBTQ community and Greek life.



BBC: MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL; ALPHA PHI ALPHA: MORGAN LIEBERMAN; LAMBDA THETA PHI: MARC MAYES; WILLIAMS: SHANE EPPING





† A member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. leads masked members through Conservation Auditorium at the beginning of an initiation ceremony. These ceremonies, or probates, occur every semester. Friends, family and peers fill large lecture halls to watch as new members are revealed one by one. Guests are encouraged to cheer throughout the probate, which includes a reflection on the fraternity's history, rapping, singing and stepping.

† Members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. take the stage in Jesse Auditorium during their spring 2014 probate. Alpha Kappa Alpha was the first historically black sorority founded on MU's campus. In 2013, Kearston Winrow, BJ '14, and 28 other women reestablished AKA's presence at MU by reactivating the chapter.

"From the beginning, we wanted to get on campus and set a tone and standard," she says. "We were heavy on planning programs every two weeks for campus and making sure we were doing community service every week in some capacity. There is something refreshing [about] being part of something with people who look like you, understand your experience as a black woman, and work with you to help positively impact communities that are most vulnerable. I don't have any sisters, and AKA offered me sisters in every state across the U.S. and sisters across the globe. I love being able to depend on a sorority sister to encourage me, lift me up, hold me responsible, pray for me, and help me live up to the mission, values, and standards of our sorority." **M**

