Waco/Baylor Celebrity Profile: Tam Dunn

http://www.baylor.edu/studentactivities/greeklife/

Meeting at her office in the Department of Student Activities, Tam Dunn and I walked over to Brooks College together for lunch and conversation. Dunn is the Associate Director of Student Activities for Greek Life and has been in this position for about fifteen years.

“In 1996 I was the Coordinator of Greek Activities, since then the title has changed a few times but the job has stayed the same,” Tam Dunn said.

Over a lunch of cheeseburgers and fries we discussed her role at Baylor and how it has changed throughout her career. Early in the development of Greek life at Baylor there were only positions for a coordinator and graduate assistant. Student Activities has since then expanded this department so that there are positions for an associate director, coordinator, and graduate assistant.

“My coordinator, Brandi Barber, and graduate assistant, Ashley Peeples, are able to get close to IFC [Interfraternity Council], NPHC [National Panhellenic Council], MGC [Multicultural Greek Council], and PHC [Panhellenic Council] in ways that were not possible when I was striving to do it all on my own,” Dunn said.

With thousands of students involved in Greek activities there are many responsibilities that Dunn and her team are held accountable for. Within each division of Greek life there are boards led by members of each sorority and fraternity to oversee the chapters and build relationships within the council. Dunn is looked up to as the figure-head of Greek interaction and spurs groups to encourage one another while maintaining their own identities.

“One of our most stressful times is during Homecoming because each group has their own events and wants potential new members to see that we can still work together as a Greek community,” Delta Delta Delta member Becka Bovio said.

Recruitment is a large part of Greek life and during that time Dunn receives many emails and phone calls from concerned parties. Recalling an ongoing conversation, Dunn laughed about a mother who had been filling out her daughter’s online recruitment registration and emailed Dunn with an issue. Dunn chose to email the daughter her response and inquired why the daughter was having her mother do the work of registering for her. In the latest, the mother is frustrated that Dunn has emailed her daughter and Dunn is tickled that the mother does not understand her point.

“There is never a time of recruitment that is uncomplicated. With 700 girls registered to go through Fall Parties right now, the chapters and PNMs [potential new members] will be forming bonds and making decisions about one another that will decide their future,” Dunn said.

The schedule of the Greek community never slows down. Dunn is constantly working with groups and individuals to improve the livelihood of the chapters at Baylor.

“Tam encourages us all to lay aside any differences and recognize the greater Greek bond that brings us together. By giving a paradigm of service to the Panhellenic ideal, Tam shows us how important commitment to Greek unity is,” Delta Delta Delta member Kelsey Jones said.