Greek Week welcomes two new fraternities

By Caroline Sykes

This year’s Greek Week will include two new fraternities, both participating for their first time. Both Theta Chi, founded in 2009, and Zeta Beta Tau, which was recolonized in 2007, will be participating in Greek Week events with all the other Greek students.

Greek Week, an annual event for the Greek community, is April 5 through April 25. It is three weeks of competition between groupings of fraternities and sororities through events.

“Greek Week serves the Greek community, as chapters come together to serve,” Greek Week Director Hannah Vargon said.

Greek Week is packed with programs, events and activities that the groupings participate in for fundraising.

“You do blood drives, canned food drives, different sporting events, skits, and parties with your grouping,” Zeta Beta Tau President Brandon Connelly said.

Greek Week benefits a variety of local and national causes, 14 total, through the money raised during events. Such causes are Cancer Research Center, Missouri Girls Town, and Easter Seals, Theta Chi’s beneficiary.

“Each grouping has a beneficiary, and all the money we raise goes to that organization,” Theta Chi Vice President Benjamin Woodward said.

Greek Week will be slightly different for these two fraternities compared to the other fraternities and sororities, since they have no prior experience, smaller membership, less name recognition and less chapter revenue.

Zeta Beta Tau did not participate in past years due to having too few members and not having a good enough foundation, Connelly said.

Although Zeta Beta Tau has only 24 members this year, much fewer than most fraternities and sororities, they have not had hardships as may be expected. They have been showing strong effort in their activities, despite their small size.

“Greek Week is a lot more effort-based than size-based,” Connelly said.

Vargon agrees with this claim.

“Size does not mean strength. Smaller chapters are often the most hardworking on campus,” Vargon said

“We have put a lot of money towards Greek Week, much more than a smaller house normally does, to legitimize ourselves,” Woodward said.

Although, financially, Greek Week is more of a struggle for smaller, newer fraternities, Theta Chi, who has forty-five members, is okay with spending a larger amount of money since their priority is Greek Week, {Woodward said}.

The one struggle they encounter though, Connelly said, is getting the recognition that you can still put in the effort of that of a larger chapter, and gaining respect.

Theta Chi agrees that there are some difficulties they face, that other fraternities don’t have. Theta Chi does not have a chapter house, which leads to a lower level of communication.

“If you have a house in Greek Town, it is easier to get everyone together and tell information,” Woodward said.

Theta Chi and Zeta Beta Tau do however benefit from their pairings. Since Greek Week involves the pairing of one sorority and two fraternities—one smaller one and one larger one—the small fraternities have the help of these larger chapters.

Both Connelly and Woodward have said they and their pairings have been happy so far.

Greek Week directors offer help for the small and new fraternities as well.

“Chapters new to participating in Greek Week are monitored closely by the Greek Week Steering Committee to help them adapt,” Vargon said.

Theta Chi and Zeta Beta Tau are not alone in their new experience. Greek Week activities vary every year.

“Many aspects of Greek Week has changed this year, so all chapters will be experiencing something new,” Vargon said.

Graphic:

***Upcoming Events (see Calendar tab for complete schedule):*** [**http://www.mugreeklife.com/page.php?page\_id=119503**](http://www.mugreeklife.com/page.php?page_id=119503)

Blood Drive: April 6th-7th

Fling Prelims: April 20th-22nd

Fling Finals: April 24th