

# BEYOND STUDIES

## Departmental Honor Societies allow students to explore subject outside of class

The departmental honor societies allowed students who were interested in a particular subject to investigate their focus further. Each major department contained an honor society. Members were admitted based on GPA, an application process, or a rush process.

Once members, these honor societies let students delve further into their passion. For example, Delta Omicron, a music honor fraternity, put on productions through Sinfonicon Light Opera Company. "Membership in DO takes us beyond academic understanding of music," sophomore Chelsea Cottle said. Cottle noted that the honor society made her feel like she shared a common passion with her DO brothers. "The collective passion that each brother adds to the group enables us to make an impact on campus."

Cottle also noted the support that honor societies provided to their related academic departments. "We act as a support group for many musical

endeavors like Sinfonicon Light Opera Company's performances, student's vocal jury sessions at the end of each semester, and Orchestra concerts. We work with other organizations to foster a sense of musical community on campus," Cottle said.

Other departmental honor societies had philanthropic aspects. Alpha Kappa Phi, the business fraternity, held a poker night to raise money for cancer research. Many of the other honor societies also tutored students in their major who were in need of help. Some, like the history honor society Phi Alpha Theta even held a question and answer session to assist those interested in completing an honors thesis.

Overall, departmental honor societies encompassed many aspects; but their main purpose was to give students an avenue in which to further explore their subjects outside of the classroom.

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Photo Courtesy of Chelsea Cottle.



Brothers of Delta Omicron, the Music Honor Society share a hug during an event. The group was comprised of both men and women interested in music. For induction into the group, pledges must have been a music major or minor or have completed the requirements equivalent to a music minor decided upon by the fraternity.

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Mugging for the camera, Alpha Psi Omega members Meg Hamilton, Kristen Pilgrim, Kate Lee, and Megan Behm joke around at initiation. "We're kind of like a really creative close and rowdy family," Kristen Pilgrim said.



Kelsey Meiklejohn and her Alpha Psi Omega Little Stephanie Demaree hug at a meeting. Bigs were revealed to their Littles at the initiation ceremony.



Hanging out in the PBK Auditorium, Alpha Psi Omega members Jack Stuart, Connor Hogan, Mary Myers, Stephen Cole, and Katharine Schellman chat after the initiation ceremony.

Photos courtesy of Kristen Pilgrim.



Alpha Psi Omega members pose for a picture after their initiation ceremony. The theater honor fraternity was affiliated with the theater, speech and dance departments, but supported theater everywhere on campus.

Members of Delta Omicron pose for a picture together after their Spring induction ceremony. Delta Omicron was a departmental honor society for those interested in music.