

## Greeks to “Basketbrawl” for philanthropy

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For The Miami Student

Run date: 30 Jan. 2009

The growing gap between Miami’s Greek community and the faculty and staff has caught the attention of fraternity Chi Psi and sorority Kappa Alpha Theta, so much so that the two houses are hosting a brand new philanthropy event in hopes to marginalize the polarization of staff members and Greek students. The Event: a single-elimination basketball tournament culminating in the winning team playing a staff team during the halftime show at the February 4 men’s basketball game against Ball State.

Una Hrnjak, Vice President of Public Relations for Theta, explains, “Basically the reason why we’re doing this is to bridge the gap between the Greek community and the staff at Miami’s campus, as well as to encourage more Greeks to attend athletic events.”

Essentially, Basketbrawl has three components: the actual tournament, the spirit and participation competition, and the halftime game on February 4 at the men’s basketball game against Ball State.

The actual Basketball tournament will be held February 1, 2009, 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Withrow Court. “Each fraternity can register up to four teams with seven pledges on each team,” Hrnjak explains, saying that the tournament is intended for fraternity pledges. Matt Ciccone, Internal Vice President of Chi Psi went on to say, “We wanted to do something for the male pledges because there’s a lot going on for the female pledges like Kappa Alpha’s Bump It, Thump It, and we really wanted to bring something to the male pledges that was on that level.” At the tournament, Theta will assign four to six sisters to each chapter to serve as a type of pep squad throughout the games at the tournament. The winner on Sunday receives a traveling trophy and an iPod with a sound system donated by the Miami bookstore.

The second component of Basketbrawl is the spirit and participation competition, a points-based system. “For fraternities the points will come from the tournament games but also from things like decorating their house the week of the Ball State game, making t-shirts and having a high percentage of their chapter at the game,” Hrnjak says. “The sororities’ spirit award criteria are different, they just have to have a high percentage of their chapter at the game.” There will be a registration table at the Ball State game for the Greek students to register with their chapters.

The final component of Basketbrawl is the main event: the staff game. At halftime of the men’s basketball game against Ball State on February 4, the winner of the Basketbrawl tournament will go head-to-head against a staff team selected by Chi Psi, Theta, President Hodge, and the Athletic Department. The winning sorority and fraternity will be announced at the Ball State game, and will receive 80 tickets to any regular 2009 season hockey game, as well as a social paid for by Theta and Chi Psi.

The proceeds of Basketbrawl will be split evenly between Chi Psi and Theta, with Theta’s donation going to their sorority’s philanthropy, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) and Chi Psi’s going toward the bicentennial student center. “We want to do something that’s beneficial for both Greek life and the university,” Ciccone says, “for Greeks, independents, and the staff and faculty.”



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