Congrats and Welcome to Whitman!

Hi, we’re Eli Block, Adam Hanley, Adam Maldonado and Drew Lorona, the Rush Coordinators for the Phi Delta Theta Fraternity. This is surely one of many pieces of mail that you will receive this summer from Whitman. You’ll get mail from your RA, your SA, the registrar, the business office, and your roommate if you’re lucky—basically, more mail than you could ever possibly read. Take a minute, though, to read up on Whitman’s Greek system, and Phi Delt in particular. You’ll find that the Greek system here is like no other in the United States, and that Phi Delta Theta is a fraternity that stands alone as an organization that fosters individuality, academics, friendship, and integrity. Take it from four people who were somewhat skeptical about the Greek system before coming to Whitman, that in a time when your life is changing immeasurably Phi Delt is an incredibly valuable resource to help you through this process of growth and learning. Being part of the Greek System as a member of Phi Delta Theta has been an amazing experience for us so far, and it could be for you too.

Take care, and have a great summer!
There are eight Greek groups represented here on Whitman’s campus. The four sororities, Delta Delta Delta, Kappa Alpha Theta, Kappa Kappa Gamma, and Delta Gamma make their home in the sorority sections of Prentiss Hall. The four fraternities, Sigma Chi, Tau Kappa Epsilon, Phi Delta Theta, and Beta Theta Pi each maintain their own houses located behind Jewett Hall.

But who are we? What are we all about? Well, for those of you who only know about Greek life from movies like Animal House or Revenge of the Nerds or from hazing horror stories at big universities, you may need a clearer picture of what the Whitman Greek system is like before you consider joining a Greek group. One of the things you will definitely notice about Walla Walla when you arrive is that the entire town closes down by 6 p.m., with the exception of a few restaurants. As a result of the relatively quiet town, almost all of Whitman’s social life is concentrated on campus, and one of the most popular social venues is the Greek System.

The Greek social life consists of parties, formal dinners, philanthropy events, and some quality relaxation time with friends. Almost all of the social functions are held at the fraternity houses, and usually have a theme, in addition to the socializing and dancing. Some of these parties are strictly for members of the Greek groups such as Greek Week and functions between individual groups. However, in addition we
host invites which include our independent friends as well. Is there alcohol outside of the house? Yes, it’s definitely present at many functions and a fair number of people choose to use it. But contrary to the stereotype, alcohol is not the essence of a good time or of a Greek social function. Whitman embraces a policy that allows students to make their own choices and so do we. You’d be surprised at the mix of drinkers and non-drinkers and the lack of pressure to conform to either. One of the best things about college life is the respect you gain for doing what you want to do.

In addition to these weekly functions, each group usually holds a few informal and formal bring-a-date dances throughout the year. Being Greek doesn’t mean you can only go to Greek functions and won’t limit your opportunities to experience the activities that are offered on campus. In fact, we think being a part of the Greek System gives you the best of both worlds. But more on that later....

That gives you a general picture of the social side of Greek life. Other important aspects of being Greek, which are often closely related to social activities, are community service and philanthropy events. This is an opportunity for Greeks to give back to the Walla Walla community. Each group has their own commitment to service in Walla Walla, such as the Blue Mountain Action Council and the YMCA, as well as national organizations, like the ALS. Philanthropy projects allow Greek groups to work together. For example, each year the Phi Delts and the women of Kappa Kappa Gamma spend over 40 straight hours...
Did you know that:

• Eight of nine members of the current Whitman Board of Trustees are Greek alumni.

• Seven of Eleven members of the Board of Directors are Greek alumni.

• Fifteen members of the Executive Board of Overseers are Greek Alumni.

• Eighty-four of ninety College Overseers are Greek Alumni.

Did you know that:

• 24 U.S. Presidents are or were members of fraternities.

• 16 U.S. vice presidents are or were fraternity members.

• Currently 52 percent of the U.S. Senate and 33 percent of the House of Representatives are fraternity members.

teeter-tottering to raise money for the American Diabetes Association.

The final aspect of being Greek, often under-valued in an outsider’s appraisal of our organizations, is the individual brotherhood or sisterhood. The support network that Greek groups provide is like nothing a person could find in another club or organization. In addition to distinguishing one group from another, the friendship and fellowship found in fraternities and sororities is what Greeks will tell you is the most important and meaningful part of their college experience.

If our description of the Greek system has sparked some interest in you, you may be wondering about how you go about choosing a fraternity and how they go about choosing you. Well, the whole process is referred to as rush. Though you may not know it, you’re experiencing it right now. Your first exposure to us is through our rush brochure or perhaps a summer rush party. In the fall, there will be time for you and other freshmen
What people don’t realize is that the Greek system at Whitman is not like other systems around the nation. It isn’t Animal House, but rather a place to grow and develop, experience new and exciting things, and find out who you are among guys you feel comfortable around."

Dave Brown
Phi Delta Theta
Class of 2003

Coach Loren Thompsen of the Phi Delt Raider football team celebrates another victory.

to check out the respective houses. At first rush may seem like a hassle, but it is an excellent chance to meet people, eat good food, hang out (at no cost to you!), and decide whether or not going Greek is the right decision. Rushing doesn’t mean you are obliged to pledge a house!

So What About Phi Delt?

Up till now we’ve been talking more generally about Whitman’s Greek System, but now we’d like to take a few minutes to talk to you about Phi Delt in particular. This fraternity has rapidly become one of the most important and most special parts of our lives. As was said in the beginning, it is an organization that fosters friendship, academics, and integrity. Moreover, Phi Delt is a collective community made up of strong and distinct individuals.

The ideals of friendship and brotherhood provide the backbone of our community. These ideals are the glue that holds the fraternity together. They are what lend a sense of

Phi Delt Fact:
74 percent of all Phi Delts didn’t plan to pledge a house. Obviously, they found something they liked in Phi Delt!

Phi Delt Fact:
61 percent of the men in Phi Delt didn’t look at any other fraternities on campus. Phi Delt was the only place for them.
strength and loyalty to the bonds between the members of the fraternity. Our friends and brothers within the house are there for us no matter what: be it a run to Taco Bell after a stressful evening of studying, or a discussion about some of the challenges that we face here. Brothers are there for one another every day.

Phi Delts live out their commitment to each other in a number of different ways. We are there to share the fun, light-hearted times with each other in order to take a break from the academic rigors of Whitman. For instance, you might catch us playing a round of frisbee golf on one of the various “courses” around campus, or heading out of town for a weekend road trip to Seattle or Canada. In addition, we are committed to helping each other through the harder times in life. We all know that no matter what time of day, no matter what subject, a brother will always be willing to listen. We’re here to help each other through relationships with family and friends. We’re here to help with the big questions that arise, like who we are, who we want to be, and where we want to go with our lives. We’re here to help each other through all of the challenges that we inevitably face as we go through college. Further, not only is it a tremendous aid to have “older brothers” all around you who have been through similar experiences, but also it is a challenge and a reward to develop leadership skills through positions in the fraternity. It takes a lot to organize 60+ members to work

Phi Delt Fact

**Phi Delt majors:**
- Philosophy
- Economics
- History
- Mathematics
- Physics
- Biochemistry
- Biology
- Geology
- Environmental Studies
- Spanish
- Politics
- English
- Sociology
- Chemistry
- Music
- Psychology
- Plus over 15 established minors.
and live together!

So, what is all of this friendship and brotherhood going to do for your grades? The question as to the fraternity’s influence on your academic life is a common question for new students and parents. In addition to the friendship, academics are a major focus in our house. The average GPA for all men on campus is generally around a 3.1, and Phi Delt has surpassed this average nearly every semester for the past several years. In addition, we have consistently earned a higher average GPA than the rest of the fraternities on campus. The bottom line is this: fraternity life will not hurt your academic accomplishments; on the contrary most of our members dramatically improve their GPA’s when they move into the house compared to their performance while housed in the freshman dorms. After all, with a house full of brothers striving to achieve their own personal goals who are also concerned with the success of each other, how could it not positively affect you? Many of us are in the same classes, and so before any given test you’ll often find a group of brothers sharing ideas and notes in an effort to help each other along in the process of studying. In addition, our Scholarship Chair maintains files with copies of tests from previous years from which to study, and all the majors of the brothers are posted in the study room so you know who you can go to for help on a specific subject. We also have a 2.2 mini-

**Phi Delt Fact:**
Twelve out of the last fifteen semesters, Phi Delt has led the campus in grade point average. Nationally, the Whitman chapter of Phi Delta Theta is consistently in the academic top ten of the fraternities 170 chapters.
mum GPA to initiate. That may not seem like a high standard; the 3.1 average for all men on campus may even seem low to you. But, keep in mind that the average GPA of incoming freshmen drops about one-half of a grade point from their high school GPA. Great news, huh? Because the academics at Whitman are so strenuous we honor brothers who succeed in their classes. We host a scholarship banquet each semester, attended by actives, pledges, guests, and faculty members, to recognize their accomplishments from the previous semester.

Great, so a close brotherhood and a focus on academics are major parts of the Phi Delt experience, but what else does it have to offer? Actually, ‘what DOESN’T it have to offer’ is a better question! In addition to the Greek social scene we have already briefly discussed, Phi Delta Theta offers its members and pledges athletic opportunities, leadership positions, and community service involvement. We’ve already introduced you a bit to the general social atmosphere of the Greek system here at Whitman, and Phi Delt is a very active part of the social scene. Our fraternity generally hosts a function each weekend, and formal dinners with the various sororities at different times throughout the semester. Some of our annual functions include

"The Phi's are great guys, and a blast to hang out with. I've studied in their house, partied there, hung out there. They're the guys that I enjoy being around."

John Casteel
Class of 2002

**Phi Delt Fact:**

*The northern catalpa tree in the front yard of Phi Delt's chapter house is the largest such tree in North America.*

*Freshmen perform a skit during our annual Monte Carlo function*
a toga party called the “Festival of Dionysus,” a Valentine’s dance, complete with a cupid and prizes for the best kiss, a Monte Carlo function (a night club type venue where brothers perform for each other and their dates), and a Halloween party, which, last year, was hosted for the entire Greek System. We turned the inside and outside of our fraternity into a haunted house by boarding up the windows, lining the walkway with pumpkins, and turning the basement into a cave with 1200ft. of crumpled black butcher paper. Our best event (at least in the Spring Semester) is our pledge dance at the Coeur d’Alene Resort in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho. After checking into the hotel on a Saturday afternoon, our members and their dates put on formal clothes and reconvene in one of the hotel’s event rooms for a catered dinner. After a bit of “pre-funcing,” we all head back down to the dance. It is always a successful function, and is a great opportunity to get away from campus for part of the weekend.

Social events are not the end of the opportunities for the members of Phi Delt. Each semester we field several teams for the various Intramural sports. This past year, we were runners up for the football championship, and we won both the indoor soccer and the volleyball championship for the second year in a row. In addition, we have beaten all the other fraternities in the annual choral contest for the past five years in a row. The Phi Delt choral group is organized and lead by the house “chorister,” one of the many leadership positions available to actives. When the two of us were incoming freshmen, we remember laughing at the thought of having any sort of seri-
"Some of my closest friends at Whitman College are Phi Delts. I think this is because they are distinct individuals, strong in their convictions, with good heads on their shoulders."

Kristina Anderson
Class of 2002

Phi Delt Fact:

Phi Delta Theta is the oldest fraternity on campus, founded at Whitman in 1914. In the last 89 years, Phi Delta Theta alumni have made their mark on campus: Sherwood Center, Harper Joy Theater, Cordiner Hall, Borleske Stadium, Reid Field, and the new Reid Student Center that is currently being built are all named for former Whitman Phi Delts.

Ous leadership in a fraternity. However, the various positions within the fraternity government require hard work, dedication, and a willingness to make mistakes and to learn from them. All of the positions available (President, Vice President, Rush Chair, Social Chair, Philanthropy Chair, and more) yield a tremendous amount of valuable experience for the active in that role to carry with him throughout his time at Whitman and the rest of his life.

By this point you may be thinking, with all of the activities that brothers are involved in within Phi Delta Theta, how is there time to do anything else? But, Phi Delts are involved extensively on and off campus. As a result of our active philanthropy program, the members of our house regularly accumulate nearly 400 hours of community service, and many more project hours go unreported. In addition, many Phis hold positions in the student government as well as other leadership positions around campus. In the last few years on the ASWC Executive Council, Phi Delt has produced two presidents, three vice presidents, one treasurer, and three secretaries. To boot, five Phis have been senators in the last two years. Several brothers worked as editors, writers, and photographers for the Pioneer during the last two years. The top leadership of the Kiwanis affiliate service club, Circle K, has been headed by Phi Delts for several semesters, including Mike Heath, Circle K’s Regional Governor, and Paul McCormick, the District Lieutenant Governor. And you’ll find Phi Delts participating in organizations like the Fly Fishing Club (which a Phi Delt, Cam Scott, restarted two years ago), the Outing Program (several Phi Delts are leading Scrambles this year), Residence Life, the Whitman Civil Liberties Union, and Harper Joy Theater, to name a few. In addition, last year two Phis received outstanding monetary grants for scholarship and another earned a spot on the Phi Beta Kappa role. On the athletic scene, individual brothers are active in Varsity soccer, tennis, golf, snowboarding, lacrosse, baseball, and swimming throughout the year. As a fraternity, these past two years we fielded a tough intramural football team, an indoor soccer team that won the championships, two teams for basketball, an awesome volleyball team, a softball
team, an ultimate frisbee team, and a number of tennis champions. As you can see, being a Phi Delt and being involved on campus is not the exception; it is the norm.

M...M...M...Money?

Is fraternity life just for rich kids? Nope. An initiated member of Phi Delta Theta living in the chapter house pays about $2900 per semester. This includes room, board, chapter fees, and social fees. This year, to live in a dorm and eat dorm food cost $3445 this past semester. So living in the house means saving almost $600 a year. And Chef Bob, our famous cook, makes great meals (his lasagna and other pasta dishes on Thursday nights always draw crowds) and he always provides vegetarian options. We have a salad bar and outdoor barbecue. We have cereal and other breakfast foods around if you wake up in time to eat before class. And, our kitchen is one of the few on campus always open for you to snack on whatever you want. Eating is a good excuse for a study break and the kitchen is often busy in the middle of the night. The Phi house offers comfortable living for its members. Rooms are spacious and members are allowed, even encouraged, to decorate their rooms as they please. Save your quarters for the Pepsi machine, as we have free washing machines and dryers. Just when you thought it couldn’t get any better, Phi Delt owns several acres up in the Blue Mountains. You can use it for camping, picnicking, hunting, whatever you want. All of this, and we are still almost $600 cheaper than the school!

On a more serious note, we would like to emphasize that our Pledge Education program does NOT include hazing. We feel that the purpose of the fraternity is to build friendships and strengthen character, not to demoralize an individual by participating in meaningless, even potentially dangerous acts. Pledges don’t have to do our house chores; active members living in are assigned a specific job like vacuuming or mopping as well as a dishcrew (it’s not all a party).

As a pledge you do have to pay a $65 pledge fee, a $50 chapter dues, and a $70 social fee. $185 may seem like a lot of

**Phi Delt Fact:**

Phi Delt has defeated all other fraternities the last four years in Whitman’s annual Choral Contest.

Brothers Dan Overgaag, Cuong Luu and Peter Holter take time for a picture at the Kappa Formal Dinner.

**Phi Delt Fact:**

Phi Delt is currently the least expensive fraternity on campus by several hundred dollars a year.
**Phi Delt Fact:**
Skeptical about something that would be called the "pledge program?" Want to know more about the details? Just ask one of our 18 pledges from the 2002-2003 school year. Due to the resounding success of our recruitment and pledge program, Phi Delt is now the largest, and fastest growing, house on campus. We must be doing something right.

When going through rush, it is important to ask a lot of questions:
- How much does it cost?
- What does a typical freshman room look like?
- What is the chapter's GPA?
- What is the chapter's hazing policy?
- Will I be able to be involved in other activities outside the fraternity?
- What is the pledge program like?

money, but subtract that from the money you save from college costs and you’re still way ahead. And that money covers stuff for you, like the pledge program, your rush t-shirt, meals at the house, and the popular pledge dance. If you have trouble paying, we can help. We have payment plans and we take credit cards. We understand that money problems arise, especially in college.

There are a lot of things we didn’t cover like house retreats, the details of our pledge program, road trips, retreats and more. This mailing is really designed to pique your interest. We hope it succeeded. If you’ve got questions or if you’d like to let us know you’re interested in becoming a Phi Delt fill out the “reply” card in this pamphlet and stick it in your mail box. Also, keep an eye out for invitations to our summer parties. If you’d like to get a hold of us over the summer, we’ve put the numbers of our regional Rush Chairs on the back of this brochure. They’d be happy to talk to you about Phi Delt or Whitman or life in general. If you’d like to get a hold of us when you get to Whitman just call 527-5751 and ask for a rush committee member. Or, just bug the guy who picks up the phone, he won’t mind. Have a good summer and congratulations on your acceptance to Whitman. See ya’ in the fall!
Consider this an invitation . . .

to call us . . . anytime, anywhere!

Below is a list of Phi Delts around the country. Please feel free to call them if you have any questions about Whitman, Phi Delt, or college life in general.

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<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tr>
<td>Eastern Region</td>
<td>Jonah Stinson</td>
<td>413 268 3594</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California Region</td>
<td>Eli Block</td>
<td>509 301 2778</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rocky Mountain Region</td>
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<td>435 649 8821</td>
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<td>Portland Region</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seattle Region</td>
<td>David Cai</td>
<td>360 870 3238</td>
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Also don't hesitate to contact the Rush Coordinators listed below:

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eli Block</td>
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