

Sorority Girls Gone Wild with Academics

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FAIRFAX--Step inside of George Mason University's student common area, the Johnson Center. Upstairs you will see students studying, while in the food court others are enjoying their time eating and laughing -- many of them are wearing T-shirts with Greek letters on them.

Greek letters are found everywhere on campus. Sorority life is one of the biggest student activities that takes place at GMU. Ah, the stereotypical sorority girls: The ones who party Monday through Sunday ... the girls gone wild ... the dumb bimbos.

Are they really like that?

"The grade point average requirement is high for sororities and they are at and above that requirement," said Michelle Guobadia, the Greek advisor for sorority and fraternity life.

Apparently, this stereotype of sorority women being dumb bimbos is far from the truth. Everyone involved in Greek life knows what really goes on within sorority life.

According to Guobadia, sorority women meet or are above the average academic standard, which is a 2.5. Academics are so important to sororities that each self governs to maintain and go beyond a good grade.

Sororities hold study sessions with the whole chapter to help sisters achieve the required academic standard and arrange academic and social probation for women who were not able to make good grades. Dumb bimbos? Probably not.

"Being in a sorority helped me to do better academically and I think we defy the stereotype of the dumb party girls because we, as a sorority, do a lot to maintain a great academic life," said Samantha Colladay, a sophomore business marketing major of the Alpha Phi sorority.

Sorority women have always been infamous for their stereotype. But not anymore. The secret is out and they are promoting themselves by going above and beyond with their academics.

Sororities don't seem to be bothered anymore by this stereotype because they know that they actually do better in school than many other students. Sororities provide an immense amount of help by tutoring one another or holding required study sessions to help better their education and become stronger and smarter women, according to Guobadia.

"These sorority women strive to make it happen. They set goals and help each other out to achieve and become leaders," Guobadia said.

Working hard as well as playing hard seems to be what sorority women do best. They know how to manage their time and it shows in their transcripts. These sorority women not only have good standing written on their transcripts but the two simple words dean's list are written on many sorority women's transcripts. Pretty Impressive.

"I have been on the dean's list the entire time I was at Mason," said Bridgette Rupe, a sophomore communications public relations major in Chi Omega. If I didn't join Chi Omega my grades would've dropped because I like competition and recognition. My sorority does both of that for our grades."

The stereotype of sorority women is old news. They do more studying and less partying than many other students who are not involved in any activities at all. These so-called girls gone wild aren't wild about parties. They're wild about academics. They do their best to be role models they can be for other independent women.

"We're smart and strong independent women who do well with academics. We definitely know how to have fun but we know how to do well in school just as much," Rupe said. "We as sorority women have to keep fighting the stereotype because it's not true."