



Phi Kappa Psi

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Greek Housing Pushes Phi Kappa Psi President to the Forefront

What were some of your fondest memories in college? If you were like most college graduates, you would agree that fraternity and sorority parties facilitated a lot of memorable experiences.

For Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE) students, like Phi Kappa Psi president Danny Aschenbrenner, these parties were only a figment of their imagination. But, as SIUE transitions into a division one school, greek housing is becoming a reality in the fall of 2011.

Danny Aschenbrenner grew up in Wildwood, Mo., a West County suburb in St. Louis, Mo. Growing up around many University of Missouri students, he was introduced to fraternity life at an early age. The ornate mansions, filled with crown molding and hardwood floors, that so many greek members resided in, entranced Danny into his college career.

Tall, skinny and dressed like he stepped out of a Brooks Brothers catalog, he said, “College should be about academics, of course; but, at the same time, those quintessential experiences that young adults are exposed to in movies and at various other campuses aren’t being fulfilled at SIUE.”

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Finally, in the fall of 2010, plans were finalized for the construction of greek housing in the Cougar Village apartments. Prior to being elected as president of his fraternity, Phi Kappa Psi, he was not the most involved brother. But that all changed once housing was solidified.

Danny, ecstatic about the prospect, attended the very first meeting to inquire how to make the process happen. “Once the housing plan passed, I realized that it was my duty to take the reigns for Phi Psi and perfect all the mechanics that came with the process,” said Danny.

And mechanics there were. From deciding on simple tasks like choosing the perfect shade of mahogany wood for the kitchen, to more complex endeavors like creating the bylaws for the house, his days were full of planning.

Danny admits to being scatter-brained, in terms of not focusing on one single venture at a time, but in doing so, he has perfected the art of multi-tasking. “So much of what goes into the process is behind closed doors. People don’t understand all of the fine details that have to be worked out in order for members to be able to move into the houses in the fall,” said Danny.

At 20 years old, and only a junior, he has already begun undertaking large complex projects and honing his entrepreneurial skills to utilize post graduation. When asked if he feels accomplished, Danny replied by saying, “I don’t necessarily feel that I’m accomplished, per se; I believe that doing what I do everyday of the week is necessary to exceed in the business world.”

Danny’s dream of catapulting greek life and the campus into the next phase of its evolution is coming true. Mr. Aschenbrenner embodies the student that others should strive to become. For more information regarding his advances in the housing process, visit www.siuhipsi.com.

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