

Recruitment Counselors = Ambassadors for Greek Life

WARRENSBURG, MO – Recruitment counselors serve as the ambassadors for Greek Life for the sororities and are first to have contact with students who are considering sorority life. They must be available to the prospective members at all times. They act as role models and must represent Greek Life and UCM at all times.

The application process is grueling. Women who wanted to be recruitment counselors had to submit an application, essay, and a letter of recommendation. They were then interviewed by the Panhellenic executive board, which serves as the governing board of all sororities, and were notified a week later. Being chosen to be a recruitment counselor is considered an honor by the sororities. A number of sorority women applied to be recruitment counselors but only 14 women were selected.

The women chose to be recruitment counselors for a variety of reasons. Since each woman went through recruitment process as a new member, some women wanted to see a different side of recruitment, “I thought it would be a really good experience to be on the other side of recruitment and get a different perspective” according to Rachel Baginski, junior corporate communication and psychology major. Baginski added that she also wanted to “give back to the sorority and be a good role model for Greek Life as a whole.” Breault wanted to be a recruitment counselor because she wanted to help the new women make the right choice for themselves.

Once chosen, the recruitment counselors had to disaffiliate from their sorority - they were not allowed to have contact with their sorority sisters or wear their sorority letters. By disaffiliating, the women do not

have ties to their particular sorority. This makes the recruitment counselors have an unbiased view of each sorority. “We got to see the different sorority women’s point-of-view and respected the different sororities, as well as our own,” according to Courtney Whitesell, junior biology major. It also helped the new women find out which sorority best fits them. “We didn’t want to influence the new women in the direction of our personal sorority. By not knowing which sorority we were in, the new women went through recruitment with an unbiased opinion of each sorority,” said Whitesell.

Some women found that this was the most challenging part of being a recruitment counselor, “It was hard to not be able to be around my sorority sisters because they are my best friends,” said Elizabeth Clingman, sophomore special education major. Although hard, it helped the women get to know the other recruitment counselors and learn about the other sororities “We had to be able to talk to the potential members about all of the sororities - not just our own,” according to Clingman.

Training was an intense two-day experience. The recruitment counselors moved in before the rest of the student body settled in and began preparations for recruitment. They had workshops where they got to know each recruitment counselor. They became experts in each of the seven sororities, such as knowing what each sorority’s philanthropy, colors, and symbols are. They also learned about important recruitment rules and procedures.

An important aspect of being a recruitment counselor is they must serve as representatives for Greek Life. The women devoted three weeks to all WOW events and sorority events. During these events, they found creative ways to promote recruitment such as the Greek Trivia Taxi and by “passing out recruitment fliers and lip balm that promoted Greek Life,” according to Kristin Breault, junior criminal justice major. The women also met one-on-one with the new students. “We wanted to promote Greek Life during this time because we would like for people to get involved and know the real meaning of Greek Life,” said Clingman.



Pictured from left to right (second row): Beth Rand, Beth Hottel, Andrea Steele, Kristen Breault, Rachel Baginski, Erica Johnson, Lesley Hogan. From left to right (first row): Kelli Asbury, Liz Clingman, Whitney Scott, Courtney Whitesell, Sarah Weinsting, Sarah Weiss. Not Pictured: Alison Shelby.

All of this hard work was worth it. The recruitment counselors helped 93 women find a new home and new friends. The recruitment counselors found the past few months to be hard but extremely satisfying “The thing that I am most proud of is all the ladies who were recruitment counselors who came from different sororities and backgrounds and came together to make sure the women had the best recruitments possible,” according to Whitney Scott, senior physical education major. She added, “We all came together to make sure that the new women had a wonderful time and experience.”

The 2007 Formal Recruitment Counselors are Andrea Steele of Overland Park, KS, Kristen Breault of Gladstone, Rachael Baginski of St. Louis, Lesely Hogan of Kansas City, Sarah Weinsting of Columbia, Sarah Reiss of Chesterfield, Kelli Asbury of Hallsville, Erica Johnson of Kearney, Courtney Whitesell of Spring Hill, Whitney Scott of Blue Springs, Alison Shelby of Lee’s Summit, Beth Rand of Omaha, NE, Beth Hottel of Liberty, and Elizabeth Clingman of Hermann.