The Greek Awards Banquet is a way for the University to formally recognize the positive influences that the Greek system has on our campus and in our community. As a way to encourage the quest for excellence, the Interfraternity Council selects chapters who have demonstrated above average efforts in the following categories:

- Chapter GPA
- New Member Retention
- Outstanding Scholastic Achievement
- Educational Programming
- Community Involvement

Delta State University prides itself on educational excellence. The IFC recognizes the chapter with the highest grade point average as a way to encourage members to strive for academic distinction. The chapter receiving the award for the Highest Overall Chapter GPA for the Fall 2006 semester is – **Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia**

Recruitment is the lifeline of the Greek system; however, the journey between bid signing and initiation is a long one. The IFC recognizes the chapter who initiated the highest percentage of pledges from the Fall 2006 pledge period. With a retention rate of 71%, the New Member Retention Award goes to – **Pi Kappa Alpha**.

Each chapter was given a list of guidelines by which to submit information about the chapter’s scholastic achievement program, educational programming, and community involvement. A panel of student affairs professionals from Elon University, The University of Southern Mississippi, and Mississippi University for Women - who were members of Greek organizations themselves - judged the submissions.

The chapter receiving the award for their scholastic achievement program has created an executive committee whose charge is to aid new and initiated members in their studies. Headed by the Scholarship Chairman, this committee holds study hall opportunities for its members twice weekly. The organization encourages group work, peer tutoring, and student/professor conferences. The chapter self-imposes stiffer academic GPA guidelines for its members awaiting initiation than those imposed by the University. The chapter rewards the new member with the highest grade point average by waiving the initiation fee and the active member with the highest semester and
cumulative GPA with cash scholarships and exemption of chapter dues. According to one of the judges’ comments, “this organization demonstrates the important of academic excellence in Greek life.” The chapter receiving the Outstanding Scholastic Achievement Award is – **Kappa Alpha Order**.

On a college campus, education doesn’t only take place inside the classroom. The IFC encourages each chapter to hold educational programs for their members and for the community at large. This year, the chapter receiving the Educational Programming Award held three chapter and officer training programs ranging in topic from leadership to risk management. They also attended programs held by the university and other organizations including “Date Rape or Drunk Sex” and participated in their National’s alcohol awareness program “Alcohol EDU.” The chapter receiving the award for Excellence in Educational Programming is – **Kappa Alpha Order**.

Robert F. Kennedy once said, “Each time a man… acts to improve the lot of others…, he sends out a tiny ripple of hope and … those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.” This year the award for community involvement is given to a chapter who has participated in over 22 community service projects, logged approximately 3,158 man-hours this year, and donated $9,500 to their national philanthropy. Organizations such as the Junior Auxiliary, Catholic Church, Bolivar County Fire Department, Boy Scouts, Kappa Delta, Phi Mu, Tri Delta, Bolivar County Helping Hands, and the Muscular Dystrophy Association are just a few that have benefited from this chapters generous spirit. One of the judges said of the chapter: “They are very creative and really look to their own efforts and responsibility as a brotherhood to raise funds and volunteer manpower to the community.” The chapter receiving the Community Involvement Award is - **Kappa Alpha Order**.

Greek man of the year is the highest honor bestowed on a member of the Interfraternity Council. This year’s man of the year went through formal rush in 2004. Since then, he has held 6 offices within his chapter; including chapter President, Vice-President, Rush Chairman, Intramural Chairman, and Ritual Chairman. As Chair of Community Service, he led his chapter to volunteer over 1,500 hours in service - which won the chapter honors from the IFC. He was also honored by his chapter with the Associate Member of the Year award. As if his commitment to his organization isn’t apparent through his service, our Greek Man of the Year has never missed a chapter meeting or official chapter function.

Not only has this fraternity man been involved in Greek life, he sets an example of leadership for others to follow. He has served his University as an Orientation Leader and been inducted into ODK, Phi Eta Sigma, AED, and Beta Beta Beta honor societies. He has also served as Vice President of the Catholic Student Association, is a member of the Student Alumni Association, and has recently been named an Elliott Scholar. He has participated in countless campus and community service projects, yet finds the time to maintain an impressive 3.9 GPA.

Of this year’s winner, a rival chapter said: “he has always exhibited exemplary character, scholarship, and dedication to the Greek system.”

In the recommendation from his chapter, his peers had this to say:
“He is constantly working and searching for new ideas to make our chapter and its members better. If he sees something that needs to be done, he eagerly grabs the bull by the horns and gets the job done. He is the first one to volunteer to do the jobs no one else wants to do and does it without complaining, expecting no honor or praise in return.”

On behalf of the Interfraternity Council, it is my pleasure to give very deserving praise to this very humble fraternity man.

Ladies and gentlemen, the 2006-2007 Greek Man of the Year is Mr. Dustin Pambianchi of Pi Kappa Alpha.

The Interfraternity Council is proud to officially re-introduce the Award for Chapter Excellence. Originally known as the Brumby Award, this distinction is reserved for the IFC chapter that best exemplifies the goals and ideals set fourth by the chapter’s national organization. For several years now, the IFC has not awarded the honor, and the “Brumby Award” has become synonymous with the Panhellenic system.

After suggestions from the membership, this spring, the IFC decided to reinstitute the award. The group unanimously agreed to rename IFC’s version of the Brumby Award “The H.L. Nowell Award for Chapter Excellence,” after H.L. Nowell - the father of the fraternity system at DSU. A 40 year employee of the University, H.L. Nowell held numerous posts at DSU, including Dean of Men, Director of Student Activities, Alumni Secretary, and Director of the Student Union – which now bears his name. IFC is pleased to honor Mr. Nowell for his efforts in creating the system in which we are a part.

Under similar guidelines the Nowell Award is given to the chapter who demonstrates achievement in meeting their own ideals in the categories of scholarship, service to others, and contribution to campus community / activities.

This year’s winner has an impressive list of credentials. Academically, chapter members have been inducted into 7 academic honor societies and members have received 9 merit based scholarships. 9 members were listed on the President’s or Dean’s List in Spring 2006 and 8 in Fall 2006. The chapter GPA has been consistently higher than the all male and all fraternity GPAs, as well. These accomplishments helped the chapter reach its goal of “diligence in academic studies.”

On the service component, this chapter donated over $9,500 in philanthropic efforts and donated on average 45 man hours per member in community service. On a national level, this chapter was 6th out of 130 chapters in the amount of money donated to its philanthropy. Reverence to God is one of the ideals on which this chapter is built, and assisting those less fortunate is a way this chapter meets this goal.

Contribution to campus community / activities is held in high regard by this chapter. Members of the chapter are involved in every aspect of campus life: from SGA to Varsity Athletics, to Resident Assistants. Attendance at extra curricular activities such as sporting events, campus clean-ups, tailgating, and other university functions are encouraged and awarded. Participation in the campus community helps the chapter reach its goal of becoming positive contributors to campus activities.
In a recent publication from their national office, this chapter was named one of the “9 southern chapters that do it right” – joining the ranks of chapters at University of Georgia, Vanderbilt, University of North Carolina, and University of Tennessee. These men do an exceptional job of “living their ritual,” and I am pleased to honor them for their achievement.

Ladies and Gentlemen: The H.L. Nowell Award for Chapter Excellence for 2006 goes to Kappa Alpha Order.