



THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI.

Fraternity and Sorority Life

118 College Drive #5008 | Hattiesburg, MS 39406

Phone: 601.613.5704 | fsl@usm.edu | usm.edu/fraternity-sorority-life

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Greetings & Salutations, Fraternity & Sorority Life Community

As we return to campus for the Fall 2020 Academic year and enter Recruitment Season, I want to welcome you, our Potential New Members (PNMs), and Interested students to Fall Recruitment 2020. This year our Fraternity & Sorority Life (FSL) office will facilitate a unified recruitment season for all three of our councils -College Panhellenic Council (CPC), Interfraternity Council (IFC), and National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC). Although this semester may not look like what we would have imagined, what is most important is that we are all here, and we will work together to make this recruitment season successful despite the circumstances.

Over the last five months, our FSL Staff and student leaders, have worked on various recruitment plans for the upcoming recruitment season. Thank you for your patience as we have worked through several options of providing safety to our community during COVID-19 for the fall semester. Our priority has and will always be the health & safety of the Fraternity & Sorority Life community. As the University continues to shift courses to hybrid and online formats, and the State of Mississippi is now under Executive Orders limiting gatherings to 10 or less indoors or 20 or less outdoors, wearing of face masks, and social distance of 6ft or more. The Fraternity and Sorority Life Office has moved to virtual Recruitment process for all three councils - IFC, CPC, and NPHC.

What does this mean for you, our students, and alumni who are involved in Recruitment 2020? Virtual Recruitment implies that every aspect of this recruitment process should be online. Whether you are at home or on the campus, as long as you have access to the internet, a computer, and have paid the registration fee (PNM or Interested students), you are allowed to participate in this year's recruitment season. Please note that participation is not a guarantee that you will become an active member. Suppose you are an Active Member of your chapter and have access to the internet and a computer, and you are qualified by your National organization and your local chapter. In that case, you can participate in virtual recruitment remotely without prejudice or penalty.

On Saturday, the FSL Team held a virtual eight-hour training session for our chapter advisors and Faculty & Staff Advisors. There were some technical difficulties throughout the process; however, allowing ourselves flexibility, we adjusted and progressed on. As a community, we have to afford grace and patience with each other, PNMs, and Interested Students as we maneuver through these times of uncertainty. More importantly, let us do our part to lessen the in-person contact so that we can stop the spread of COVID and get back to some sense of normalcy this academic year. If there is any deviance from the virtual plan, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Fraternity & Sorority Office at FSL@usm.edu or personally maleta.wilson@usm.edu.

Today starts College Panhellenic Council Recruitment Orientation and tomorrow OPEN ROUNDS. On August 13th, our NPHC Fraternities and Interfraternity Council will host "Man to Man: A Conversation on Masculinity, Accountability, and Mental Health". The full Recruitment Schedule is available on the website if you have any questions. I wish our members, PNMs, and Interested Students much success in this recruitment season.

Sincerely,
Dr. Wilson,
Director, Fraternity & Sorority Life

