

DELTA SIGMA THETA

REJOINS CAMPUS

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Fraternities and sororities often provide a place where all students fit in, but that goal can be difficult to achieve when organizations are forced to disband — as was the case with Delta Sigma Theta.

Delta Sigma Theta is now making a comeback with the help of students and Center for Student Involvement staff members. This past spring, Truman State University welcomed Delta Sigma Theta back into the ranks of its 240 student organizations.

Delta Sigma Theta was an organization at Truman for years but during the 2014-15 school year it was issued a cease and desist order because of unfiled compliance papers with their national headquarters, CSI Director Laura Bates said.

Delta Sigma Theta is a sorority founded in 1913 to provide a way for women to serve their communities, primarily African American residents, according to deltasigmatheta.com. Delta Sigma Theta is a member of the National Pan-Hellenic Council.

Bates said in the same semester, Delta Sigma Theta as a national organization ordered a moratorium, which meant no chapter could accept new members while it restructured aspects of its organization.

Despite CSI's involvement, the organization faced complications with getting back together because of the need for an adviser.

"We didn't have any active NPHC women on campus [during the spring]," Bates said. "We reached out to people, gauged interest based on students and held informational meetings. We reached out to local offices because each chapter must be overseen by a graduate advisor."

The new adviser is Truman alumna Clara Maxwell, who is able to visit the organization once a month to help and has been hands-on during its intake, Bates said.

Bates said NPHC organizations participate in intake rather than formal recruitment. Delta Sigma Theta will host informational meetings and meet-and-greets that anybody interested in the organization can attend, she said.

From there, Bates said there is a membership application. These applications help active women identify women who share their same values, she said. Bates said this process typically takes place in the spring. Though Delta Sigma Theta is not accepting applications during the fall semester, it is getting its name out this semester with different events to allow women who are interested to get more information.

Bates said Delta Sigma Theta was a partner in heart health programs and was also known for doing a lot of general service work in the community.

Bates said one of the organization's biggest fundraisers was in buying fans for families without air conditioning during the summers. She said Delta Sigma Theta also did a school supply drive for local elementary schools as NPHC and hopes this mission continues.

"The demands tend to be more difficult, but reactivation on campus is always exciting," Bates said. "Newer alumnae who haven't been able to be involved up to this point have an opportunity to get recommitted to their organization in a new way."

Alumni will have their first opportunity to reconnect with the reactivated chapter this fall during Truman's homecoming, Bates said.

Bates said she is excited about welcoming old students back, but she said she is also looking ahead to expanding the sorority.

"My hope is that they continue to grow because growth is always really important," Bates said. "I hope they stay committed to making sure they're on top of deadlines and dates and that the organization stays thriving."

Bates said she wants to see Delta Sigma Theta stay committed to its values and having longevity.

Junior Aaliyah Butler, Delta Sigma Theta Vice President, said she would also love to see the sorority grow over time.

"The Truman minorities have grown, and I would love to see more National Pan-Hellenic Council sororities on campus," Butler said. "I want us to keep going and to collaborate with the National Panhellenic Council, as well as other organizations."

Butler said she is looking forward to the events they have planned because they want to get their name out there. The sorority just finished hosting an absentee ballot assistance, which many people attended, she said.

Butler said throughout the semester the organization will be hosting forums, information panels, a movie night and other events people can attend.

"Our organization is based on five thrusts, and every event we hold must contain at least two of these thrusts — they're a lot of fun," Butler said.

The five thrusts include economic development, educational development, international awareness and involvement, physical and mental health, and political awareness and involvement, according to dstzetazeta.truman.edu.

For more information about Delta Sigma Theta, visit its website dstzetazeta.truman.edu.

The current executive board President Royalle' Moore, Treasurer Erica McBride and Vice President Aaliyah Butler pose using the Delta Sigma Theta symbol. The sorority is returning to Truman's campus after being disbanded during the 2014-2015 school year.

Submitted Photo

