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1 Members of Greek life organized a food drive during Greek Week. Collected canned goods were used in a sculpture contest between fraternities and sororities. Photo by Rivan Stinson.

2 Fraternity brothers participated in Psi Upsilon's broomball tournament as another Greek Week function. Photo by Rivan Stinson.

3 Two Greek Life members compete in the dance competition portion of Sing and Variety. Preparations for the competition begin at the beginning of winter semester, months before the event. Photo by Kelly Gilikin.

4 Kinesiology senior David Hiltzik rocks out during Sing and Variety – the event that earns sororities and fraternities the most points. Other activities of the week included a volleyball tournament and Twister competition. Photo by Kelly Gillikin.

IT'S ALL GREEK TO ME

WRITTEN BY KAITLIN SCHULER. DESIGNED BY BROOKE ANDERSON.

What began in 1978 as a singing competition among fraternites has now evolved into a full week of fun and games. This year, Greek Week at the University gave sororities and fraternities an opportunity to branch out and bond with other segments of Greek life while raising donations for national and local charities. LSA sophomore Jessica Weil of the Alpha Delta Pi sorority explained that Greek Week widely appeals to participants. "Coming into Greek life, this was the event that sparked my interest," she said. "Greek Week touches on so many different interests and it's really easy to get involved."

Most sororities and fraternities advertise within their house, sending out e-mails and encouraging members to wear team t-shirts. Houses are randomly grouped with other houses to make the competition fair. Events such as broomball, Dance and Sing and tug-of-war are staples within Greek Week. Sing and Variety is another main event, where the teams choreograph a dance and compete against other teams. However, the crowd favorite remains Mr. Greek Week — a competition similar to Miss America. "The competition was funny and engaging," Weil said. "All the competitors were great and by the end I couldn't wait to see who would be crowned Mr. Greek Week."

The lucky man for 2012 was Business sophomore Robert Pan, who was a freshman brother from Delta Tau Delta at that time. "At first, I was very opposed to competing in the event and had to be thoroughly persuaded by the entire chapter of Delta Tau Delta to even compete," Pan admitted. "But once the competition started, the crowd was simply excellent and I really enjoyed myself." Pan competed with the other competitors in five events to gain his title and was judged on characteristics such as creativity, enthusiasm and accuracy. Although the winner is decided by four judges, Pan acknowledges that the crowd played a big role in who the judges picked. "I was really pleasantly surprised by how fun the event actually was," Pan continued. "The attitude of the other competitors and coaches kept a friendly environment and let us focus on having fun in the competition."

Just like any Greek Week event, team support was a major component in the competition. Pan was elected by his fraternity and received huge support from them throughout the entire event. "The Greek Week representative at Delta Tau Delta, Josh Stevenson, persuaded me to compete even after I said no time and time again and had the confidence in me to win the event," Paid said. "I didn't stand a chance of winning the Mr. Greek Week event without all the support; it was all a team effort."

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