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File



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news

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FILE COPY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

GREEK COURT DEDICATED

CHARLESTON, IL.--Sunday's dedication of Eastern Illinois University's Greek Court began a new era for Eastern students, according to Vice President for Student Affairs Glenn Williams.

The dedication signified the completion of the first four houses of Greek Court which now accommodate two fraternities and two women's residence halls.

Eastern President Stan Rives, Director of Housing Lou Hencken and Assistant Director of Student Activities/Greek Affairs Eileen Sullivan praised Eastern's Greek system.

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Oakton Community College Director of Student Activities Ann Marie Cavanaugh Barry, former assistant director of student activities at Eastern, congratulated the Greek system for its strong support of the Greek Court complex.

The first phase of the \$2.5 million project was completed July 15 and now houses close to 160 students.

The fraternity/sorority on-campus housing project was designed to provide the most developmental learning environment possible for fraternity men and sorority women.

Two of the houses are occupied by Pi Kappa Alpha and Sigma Chi fraternities. The other two houses are occupied by women students.

Several additional fraternities/sororities are showing strong interest in two new buildings expected to be built by the Fall of 1990, according to Hencken.

Sullivan said, "With Greek Court, the University has agreed to provide housing specifically designed for sorority and fraternity living."

Sigma Chi president Rob Cornwell agrees. "We are really happy with the facility," Cornwell said. "They really are working with us, and there has always been an open line of communication. As long as that line of communication is maintained between the University and us, it (Greek Court) will be an excellent and successful venture."

Hencken concurs. "It's gone much more smoothly than I had ever anticipated."

Last year, the Sigma Chi house could accommodate only 15 of more than 100 members. Cornwell said now there is more unity, and meetings and social activities run more smoothly because of the move.

Pi Kappa Alpha president Steve Godsell said his fraternity will have an extra advantage over other fraternities when it comes to Fall rush. "We will be the only fraternity on campus that has the option of immediately moving freshman pledges into the house," he said.

He added that several fraternities and sororities have already contacted him to find out his thoughts about Greek Court as they consider it as a potential option in the future. "It's so much easier to be organized when you have everything and everyone right here under one roof," Godsell said.

Eastern's Greek system has about 1,400 members or 14 percent of the total student population. Because there is an option to expand Greek Court in the future, Sullivan said it will give Greeks the opportunity to continue growing.