Departmental Honor Societies allow students to explore subject outside of class

The departmental honor societies allowed students who were interested in a particular subject to investigate their focus further. Each major department contained an honor society. Members were admitted based on GPA, an application process, or a rush process.

Once members, these honor societies let students delve further into their passion. For example, Delta Omicron, a music honor fraternity, put on productions through Sinfonicron Light Opera Company. “Membership in DO takes us beyond academic understanding of music,” sophomore Chelsea Cottle said. Cottle noted that the honor society made her feel like she shared a common passion with her DO brothers. “The collective passion that each brother adds to the group enables us to make an impact on campus.”

Cottle also noted the support that honor societies provided to their related academic departments. “We act as a support group for many musical endeavors like Sinfonicron Light Opera Company’s performances, student’s vocal jury sessions at the end of each semester, and Orchestra concerts. We work with other organizations to foster a sense of musical community on campus,” Cottle said.

Other departmental honor societies had philanthropic aspects. Alpha Kappa Phi, the business fraternity, held a poker night to raise money for cancer research. Many of the other honor societies also tutored students in their major who were in need of help. Some, like the history honor society Phi Alpha Theta even held a question and answer session to assist those interested in completing an honors thesis.

Overall, departmental honor societies encompassed many aspects; but their main purpose was to give students an avenue in which to further explore their subjects outside of the classroom.

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