With approximately one third of the student body involved in Greek life, we decided to take a look at some of the statistics surrounding this large and influential community on campus.

Greek life at William & Mary has been steadily growing since 2005, although the ratio of Greek to non-Greek students has remained at about 30%. The entire student body is growing, and evidently, the Greek community is growing with it.

bars.html

We can see from the treemaps below that fraternity and sorority chapters at William & Mary have fluctuated noticeably since 2005. Some chapters have gone temporarily extinct while others have grown considerably in the past nine years. Moreover, the turnover for fraternities is much higher than it is for sororities. Only ten of the current seventeen fraternities were around in 2005 whereas all but one of the sororities present on campus in 2005 are still operating.

tree\_2005.html

tree\_2014.html

The number of women in sororities has increased, and particularly the amount of freshmen joining sororities has increased sharply, a trend perhaps fostered by William & Mary’s zero-tolerance for hazing. However, our charts do not include the most recent recruitment. This year there were comparatively more sophomores and upperclassmen participating in recruitment than there were freshmen, possibly due to the cancellation of “Meet the Greeks” during freshman orientation. The opposite is occurring with fraternities. While there has been an overall increase of men involved in Greek life, there has been a decline of freshmen joining fraternities.

fresh\_lines.html

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of the data collected, however, was comparing the average GPAs of Greek students to non-Greek students. First of all, the overall women’s GPA as well as the average sorority GPA is significantly higher than the average male GPA. Last semester the all women’s GPA was a full .16 points higher than the men’s GPA. Furthermore, in recent years there has been a trend towards the Greek community having higher GPAs than non-Greek students, though this certainly has not been the case in the past. This suggests a greater focus on scholarship within the Greek community.

sor\_gpa.html

frat\_gpa.html

all\_gpa.html

When broken down by semester, there is a distinct fluctuation in GPAs across the board, with a trough during each fall and a peak during each spring. Nowhere is this more noticeable than in the average sorority GPA graph. Sorority women spend their fall in a whirlwind. It begins with recruitment, then clue week, then homecoming commitments, and does not conclude until initiation in November. Unfortunately, these self-imposed and partly optional commitments sometimes take precedence over school work. The same likely goes for fraternities, and freshmen still adjusting to college academics. Despite these fall slumps, however, sororities and fraternities are maintaining above average GPAs.

The Greek community, it would seem, knows how to work hard and play hard.

\*Note: The very attractive Crim Bell Curve team would like to assure our loyal readership that we are on the hunt for even more data (yes, you heard that right, EVEN MORE DATA) on Greek life. We will be running  “Bid Data 2: Get Him/Her/However you self-identify to the Greek” sometime in the near future. This will hopefully bring data on philanthropy as well as professional, honor, and service fraternities and sororities into the scope.