Office of Diversity Programs

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D-term Highlights

As summer begins and the feel of new adventures is in the air, it is time to reflect on the term that has just passed us by. D-term brought with it, warmer air, longer days and thoughts of summer as well as a lot of work. The seniors rushed to finish their MQP, juniors their IQPs and everyone else, the day to day life of WPI.

As usual, the Office of Diversity Programs and students in the EMSEP community were hard at work. Developments for the new diversity magazine, Spectrum went underway, while students Christopher Sanchez, Thales Oliveira, Likuvi Chebelyon and Victor Montero started the first minority fraternity (Lambda Alpha Upsilon) on campus. Students in the National Society of Black Engineers attended the annual National Convention at Las Vegas, while members of Hispanic Caribbean Student Association were hard at work planning Mexican Country month.

As always, birthday celebrations continued for the months of April and May as well as the many OASIS events put on by the OASIS staff. The buzz of summer brought with it Clarence Plant’s barbeque where students and faculty alike enjoyed the good food and atmosphere. As the term came to an end, members of the Black Student Union donned in formal attire attended their annual Playa’s Ball to commemorate and reflect upon the past year.

It is clear that D-term was filled with a lot of excitement, hard work and dedication. This has been the theme all year. Wherever the road leads us this summer, it is important to hold on to these attributes – they have brought success throughout the year. With this in mind, have fun and enjoy your summer!

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Congratulations EMSEP Class of ’09

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Congratulations to all the graduating seniors and grad students!! We wish you luck in your future endeavors. Your presence will truly be missed.

Pictures provided by Renee Walker and Adeola Otsuyelu
There is a new buzz around campus, and it is about the new multicultural fraternity (Lambda Alpha Upsilon) that has just been started right here on the WPI campus. It has everyone talking, especially in the minority community, about its caliber and importance to the history of the school. In fact, it has already started a chain reaction as two minority sororities are now in early stages of development.

I had the opportunity to interview founder and chapter president, Victor Montero about the fraternity.

**How did you come up with the idea of starting a Fraternity?**

Carlos Sarria came up with the idea for the fraternity. He knew some of the Hermanos (brothers) from the Uconn colony. He had attended some of their events and had become friends with them. He had the idea to bring a colony to WPI and asked us to join. He introduced us to some of the Hermanos and we attended some of their events. We liked what we saw and decided to bring it to campus. We first started with eight members but due to personal reasons some couldn’t finish the process. At the moment, we have Christopher Sanchez, Thales Oliveira, Likuvi Chebelyon and me.

**Why did you choose this particular fraternity?**

We chose LAU because it is kind of a unique Fraternity. It is a cultural fraternity that emphasizes professionalism and support of its members. LAU is a Fraternity that is not only interested in social service and unity, but the brothers of the organization are also interested in bringing together the different cultures that make up diverse communities.

**How do you think this fraternity will benefit the campus as a whole?**

One of the reasons we started a cultural fraternity is because we noticed that the groups at WPI are diluted and divided from each other. We want to initiate change by unifying the groups together while showing that what makes a true community are the people and their desire to work together. We are committed to bringing a positive change to campus that will encourage diverse cultural involvement. We are convinced that LAU has helped so many students while matriculating in college. We believe that the cultural diversity, the different ethnic backgrounds, and the history and heritage of its people represents the starting point of a movement towards unifying and understanding the people that live on the campus of Worcester Polytechnic institute.

**What are your plans for the future of this fraternity?**

Our first goal is to expand the fraternity through our campus and the Worcester consortium. We hope to have a new line of members during our next school year and with their help expand to Worcester state and other colleges. We are hoping that one day the WPI Chapter becomes an expansion hub in Massachusetts.

**How do you feel knowing that you have started something that is sure to be a legacy at WPI?**

I feel really proud, proud of my group and what we have achieved. It was a tough process but we supported each other and we managed to make it through. It is a really good feeling especially since we can see that we have started somewhat of a chain reaction. I say this because now there are two new groups trying to start multicultural sororities.

**Is there anything else you would like to say?**

Actually there are two things that I would like you to include in the article. The first is that we really appreciate the support we received from Dr. Nicole Bradford our faculty advisor, Emily Perlow Assistant Director of Student Activities & Greek Life Programs and Carlos Alba, our Alumni advisor. They were with us from the beginning until the end of the process and without their help I doubt we could have done this. The second thing is that a lot of people are confused - they think that LAU is just a Latino fraternity, but this is incorrect. We are a multicultural organization, we accept members from any ethnic or cultural background.