

## Building Confidence Among Community

UO student builds professional growth through campus organization

By Sydney McCrone

The eruption of cheering and chanting could have been heard for miles. Kira Griffith arrived back at the Kappa Delta house, trophy in hand, smiling from ear to ear. She walked up the steps with the other members of the council, greeted with applause from her sorority sisters. This was the second consecutive year that her chapter won Sorority of the Year, and this time, it was under her leadership and guidance.

From the beginning of her time at the University of Oregon, Griffith immersed herself in campus culture. Originally from Kirkland, Washington, Griffith wanted to attend school that wasn't too far and allowed her to pursue her creative interests. After visiting UO, she felt like she was at home.

During the beginning of her freshman term in the fall of 2023, Griffith decided to go through the sorority recruitment process and joined Kappa Delta.

"My mom originally encouraged me to go through recruitment because she was in sorority in college," said Griffith. "It definitely took some convincing, but of course, I'm so glad I did now."

Shortly after joining, Griffith applied for a position on the chapter's council and was quickly elected into the role of vice president of learning and development. In her role, she was responsible for welcoming new members. Throughout the year, she worked alongside a team of council members, navigating the various responsibilities that come along with an executive position. From planning chapter-wide events to performing administrative tasks, she developed the critical skills that prepared her for her current role as president.

"I've learned how to communicate professionally, how to lead a team, how to have hard conversations and how to bring a community together," said Griffith. I will absolutely bring all these skills into my life past college.

These skills have not only helped in her leadership, but also in her academic life. Griffith is an honors student in the School of Journalism and Communication majoring in advertising. Her current courses involve presenting and pitching ideas, working in teams, and building audience engagement. Her experience with public speaking throughout her time in the sorority has helped her feel confident and comfortable addressing new audiences and defending her work.

With the academic year coming to a close, Griffith and her executive council attended the annual “Fraternity & Sorority Life Excellence Awards” - an event that recognizes the members and chapters on campus most committed to the success of the FSL community. After being named Sorority of the Year last spring, Griffith was shocked to hear Kappa Delta’s name announced again.

“Overall, I was just super excited because it shows that we put in another year of amazing work,” said Griffith.

As she heads into her final term as president this fall, Griffith looks forward to meeting the new recruitment class and working with the members who will take on leadership positions.

“I would encourage anyone to go through recruitment because no matter what, you meet new people,” said Griffith. It’s a great way to find connections and it pushes you out of your comfort zone to try new things.”