Greek life on Hofstra University's campus officially began in 1936, with goals that included providing social activities, promoting academic excellence, contributing to charitable organizations and becoming an active element of student life. Today, there are 35 national and local Greek organizations on campus, each of which differs in tradition, style and personality, appealing to students from diverse cultural backgrounds.

Hofstra provides students the opportunity to become a member of one of the many Greek organizations on campus. This extended family relationship can make the adjustment and transition to college life easier and more enjoyable. By joining a fraternity or sorority, students have the opportunity to obtain a deeper sense of belonging and identity. “Being a transfer student, the sorority life appealed to me as a way of creating a ‘family’ here at school and also allowed me to become involved as an active participant of University life,” said Kelly Novak ’91, Sigma Delta Tau alumna, who also feels that membership in a sorority can help establish long-term, meaningful friendships.

Greek life incorporates social, academic and philanthropic initiatives. The loyalty developed in Greek institutions affords both undergraduates and alumni the chance to maintain relationships within the organizations and the University. Fraternities and sororities can help play a significant role in maintaining a sense of belonging for its members that translates into loyalty toward the University. “Belonging to the Greek community made my entire experience at Hofstra more fulfilling,” said Heather Rocco ’96, ’99, Second Vice President of the Hofstra University Alumni Organization and Sigma Sigma Sigma alumna. “It provided me a tremendous network of friends with whom I am still close today.”

Hofstra offers members of the Greek community the chance to become more actively involved with many of the extracurricular events held on campus. Groups take part in these events, which in turn, build upon the student’s sense of school spirit and Hofstra Pride. One of the annual traditions in which the Greeks participate is Moving Dutch/Kickoff Weekend, held the first weekend of the school year. At this event, members volunteer to help freshmen move into their rooms and become acquainted with their new environment. It also provides these new students a feeling of warmth and reassurance that they have chosen the right university. Throughout the year, fraternities and sororities unite with the entire campus community to support a variety of events. The Special Olympics is a favorite for many groups who set up various stations including arts and crafts and activities across campus for mentally and physically challenged people. Also in the fall students look forward to Homecoming and Family Weekend, which provides an opportunity for each organization to use their creativity and originality while building a spirited float and banner to display in the Homecoming Parade of Floats. Additional events where Greek support can be found include cultural celebrations such as the Italian Festival, Irish Festival and Dutch Festival, as well as Sinterklaas, where members of the Greek community create a replica of a wintertime Dutch holiday village that becomes the centerpiece of the University’s holiday celebration.

Organizations promote and sponsor campus events in Hofstra USA and the Student Center Multipurpose Room. These fundraisers give groups the opportunity to enjoy the social aspects of college life while raising money for a par-