My Iowa State Experience

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My Iowa State Experience
Jonathan Dimitriou
My name is Jonathan Dimitriou, I am a Sophomore in Civil Engineering and the oldest of three siblings. I have a little brother, Jason, that is a year younger than me and a sister, Jennifer, 7 years younger than me. My awesome and loving parents are Dean and Lindy. I am from a town called Mundelein about 30 miles north of Chicago, Illinois and graduated from Mundelein High School in 2011.

My college adventure started the summer of 2010, when my family and I started to visit colleges around the Midwest. Colleges such as the University of Michigan, Michigan State, Purdue, University of Illinois, and University of Minnesota; none of which felt right to me. Ironically the last stop on our trip was Iowa State University and immediately I knew it was the perfect place for me! The application came out a few weeks later and filled it out right away. After waiting a couple of months, I received my acceptance letter in the mail and couldn’t of been happier! I was excited to finally Graduate high school and start attending Iowa State University.
George Washington Carver Scholarship

After being accepted to Iowa State University I was constantly receiving mail and e-mails about the university. It had gotten to the point where I had stopped reading it and would put it aside to read later or even throw it out. So, it was a good thing the day the letter came about the George Washington Carver Scholarship that I didn’t throw it out, but I did set it aside not thinking much of it. Later that night I brought up the letter to my parents and it was then when my family and I took a closer look, to only find out the significance of the piece of mail I had earlier set aside. Needless to say we accepted the scholarship and to this day I could’t be more thankful for the amazing opportunities the George Washington Carver program has presented me.

SPEED Program

Going through high school I never got myself involved in many extracurricular activities, other than Varsity sports. I knew this mentality would not work in college and it would be very important to get involved early. So, when the I had the opportunity to apply for the SPEED Research Program, I took full advantage of it!

When I received notification that I was accepted into the program, I was extremely excited. Eight weeks of research before college was going to be awesome! I arrived in Ames June 2011 and after meeting everyone that was in the program and my graduate assistant I knew it was going to be a fun and exciting summer full of great activities. We visited large companies such as Caterpillar, General Mills, Pella Windows, and Rockwell Collins. These were all great experiences and gave me an idea of what it would take to get jobs at these types of companies. The research I was performing in the Agriculture Engineering Department for a Graduate student. We tested Nitrogen solutions for a device he was building to help farmers measure the levels of Nitrogen in the ground. This would stop the farmers from over fertilizing and further harming the environment. Overall, it was an amazing experience and helped me tremendously transition to the college environment.
In the spring of 2011 I attended Iowa State's Greek Getaway for high school seniors that were interested in joining the Greek system. No one in my family had any experience with the Greek System, so I thought I would give it a try. Although Greek Getaway was only a weekend long, I had a great time and knew from that someday I would be in a Fraternity.

Over the next summer I was recruited by a couple of Fraternities, Theta Delta Chi, ACACIA, and Tau Kappa Epsilon. After meeting and touring their facilities it was an easy choice for me. In the end I decided to join Tau Kappa Epsilon and it has been one of the best decisions of my life!

I have been super involved and have met so many people and life long friends through my experiences in Tau Kappa Epsilon. In my three semesters I have held six positions, which include Intramural chair, Purchasing Coordinator, Philanthropy chair, Recruitment chair, Homecoming Lawn Display chair, and Chapter Historian. I have learned many things from the past year and half and would not change a thing!

In my first semester at TKE I was the Intramural and Philanthropy chairs. Our national philanthropy is St. Jude Research Hospital and in the fall of 2011 I planned our annual fall philanthropy “Mac Attack.” We sell unlimited refills of Mac 'n Cheese for $5 and all proceeds go to St. Jude. We raised over $1,500 and it was a great experience.

In the spring of 2012 I was elected as the Chapter Historian. My job was to write newsletters to be sent out to our alumni and plan alumni events. Another task is to write the application for the Top Teke Award, which decides the top chapters in the Nation. I went into the position knowing we could win the prestigious award, but it would take a lot of work and a very good application. After two months of writing and editing the application was 80 pages long! Four months later it was announced that our chapter had won a Top Teke Award and it was one of the most proud moments I have had in my life.

During the spring and summer of 2012 I was the Recruitment Chair for the Fraternity. This was one of the most difficult and educational experiences that I have ever had. I am not a super outgoing person, so being recruitment chair forced me to come out of my shell and represent the fraternity to what it deserved. After a long spring and summer of cold calls, house tours, and traveling all over the midwest, I recruited 26 new gentlemen for Tau Kappa Epsilon.

In the fall of 2012 I was the Lawn Display Co-Chair for the Cytennial Homecoming. This was the first year we used telephone poles and it was a huge help. The theme we decided to use was ‘Storm of the Century,’ which paired well with the overall theme ‘Taking Ames by Storm.’ With the help of Pi Beta Phi Sorority, the display and skit turned out fantastic and we ended up taking first place in people's choice!
The Tau Kappa Epsilon Experience

Community Service

That's ME!

Mac Attack!

Scholarships

Lawn Display

Top Teke Award

PEOPLE'S CHOICE 2012
Summer of 2012 I had the honor of attending the 26th annual Charles R Walgreen TKE Leadership Academy in Colorado Spring, Colorado. There were 70 people accepted out of 500 applicants. It was a very motivational and inspirational weekend with exercises that developed leadership, ethics, and moral values. I will never forget some of the things I leaned and the people I met.

February of 2012 I attended a regional Leadership conference in San Francisco. This was the first regional conference I had ever been to and was a very fun trip spent with fellow Fraters.
At Iowa State I have met many new friends and have had plenty of awesome experiences. I have told you about a few and here are a few more!

**My mode of transportation.**

**Yell Like Hell**

**San Francisco RLC**

**Tau Kappa Epsilon Red Carnation Ball**

**Hanging out with Friends**

**Sorority Socials**

**Serenades**

**Lip Sync**

**Bus Parties!**