

New Girls Who Code club aims to close gender gaps in technology

By **ADRIANA CERBONE**
Staff Writer

Quinnipiac Girls Who Code became an official club on Sept. 9, with the goals to close gender gaps by highlighting female advancements, build connections with female and non-binary youth in middle and high schools and increase interest in technology.

Girls Who Code (GWC) is an international non-profit organization that aims to support and increase the number of women in computer science by refining networking skills, boosting confidence among members and educating members with computing skills to help them pursue careers and opportunities.

Quinnipiac's chapter of GWC is now an official student club, adding to the 190-plus existing student-run clubs at Quinnipiac.

Co-president and junior computer science major Adelina Chocho explained that GWC became an official student organization to become more recognized and reach more people.

"Not many people knew we existed," she said, which led to her trying to spread awareness and create opportunities for anyone interested in coding.

Chocho expressed that making this club official felt like "the best way to grow and get more students to get involved."

"I think something everyone should know about Girls Who Code is that our main goal is to help in getting more women into the field and promote diversity in technology," Ella Berry, junior computer science major and GWC co-president said.

Berry went on to mention how the first ever coders and programmers were women,

such as Ada Lovelace, who created the first published computer program. This fact amazes Berry as females dominated the industry when it first began; however, once technology became popular, men joined and took over. GWC aims to correct that.

With no limits on the number of members or demographics of members, the first meeting was held on Sept. 10. in the Communications and Computing & Engineering building. There will be general meetings biweekly with additional meetings scheduled as necessary by the executive board — all of which will be open to any Quinnipiac student.

"It means a lot, it's about creating a safe space for younger students to become genuinely excited about coding and technology," Chocho said. "Watching their curiosity and creativity grow and seeing them come back each week eager to learn more is inspiring. It reminds me of when I first started coding, and I love that I can now help give them that same experience."

The club's officers are Chocho, Berry, Treasurer and junior computer science major Sam Woodburn, Secretary and junior computer science major Reeya Patel and Public Relations Chair and junior computer science

major Megan Mohr.

"My co-president Adelina and I took a lot of time over the summer to plan out what we wanted our fall and spring to look like and what we wanted to accomplish," Berry said. "Additionally, we have been talking to a past president of ours, Emily, who has been an immense help! Since the semester has begun, we have been mainly focusing on recruitment with both university students and students in surrounding public/private middle and high schools."

For the first year of this club's existence, they will be on probationary status. This means they have been given a provisional one-year recognition to allow the club to develop. At the end of this "trial," Quinnipiac Girls Who Code will be completely recognized as a student organization as long as all the conditions are met.

"Since freshman year, this club has truly brought me closer to my peers here at Quinnipiac and given me a sense of belonging within the community," Berry said. "Additionally, the club has given me purpose and an ability to give back to those living around our school. As a computer science major, my courses here are incredibly male-dominated compared to other studies and knowing that I could have a hand in bridging this divide in future generations is extremely fulfilling to me."

Patel says that this club builds a community "where young women feel safe and supported" as they begin their journey in the technology industry. Patel also believes that GWC helps to create a learning environment to grow and empower each other in a male-dominated industry.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY QUINNIPIAC GIRLS WHO CODE

Quinnipiac Girls Who Code alongside one of the groups they taught during a program, ultimately granting them certificates from the international non-profit.

New fraternity gains one of the largest founding classes Quinnipiac has seen

By **MADelyn DURKEE**
Staff Writer

Phi Delta Theta is a new fraternity at Quinnipiac University this semester. They have been trying to bring the fraternity to Quinnipiac since 2019 and have finally been welcomed on campus, recording one of the largest founding classes the university has seen.

"The average founding class at QU over the last four years has been 31 new members for Interfraternity Council," Avery Moses, director of fraternity & sorority life, wrote to The Chronicle.

Phi Delta Theta doubled that, welcoming 65 new members to its founding class this semester. This has been a long time in the making for the fraternity.

"The Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life has been working with Phi Delta Theta since 2019 to determine when to bring the fraternity to campus. With COVID-19 and other expansions slated for other semesters, we were able to finally allow them to expand here this semester," Moses wrote.

Phi Delta Theta is excited to join Quinnipiac and give back to the community.

"Giving back to the community, that's a big thing for us. We just want to give back to what they gave us in a way. Doing our part around campus, like the community, and making it a better place for everybody," Christian Burger, a sophomore in the applied AI and business analytics 3+1 program and fraternity member, said.

Interest in the new fraternity really started growing last spring, but they weren't able to join Quinnipiac until this year.

"So come the beginning of fall term, that's when recruitment really started to push through and eventually we got the re-

sults, and we're happy with them," Noah Sampson, a first-year finance major, said.

Of the 65 founding members, about 50% of them are juniors and the other 50% is made up of sophomores and first-years. They have created a diverse group of students eager to participate.

"With the help of the nationals rep., it was open recruitment, so anybody was able to have an interview," Burger, who has been selected as the recruitment chair for next semester, said.

Unlike other fraternities and sororities, who have rigorous recruitment processes, Phi Delta Theta focused on bringing in a

variety of like-minded students for their founding class.

"What we did differently is we kind of jumped the gun. We didn't do the whole formal dinner or stuff like that, we just come to the house and if you connect with the guys then it's your right fit," Sampson said.

Their goal was to create an inclusive and supportive environment.

"It was more like creating a good group of people, a nice foundation for us to build upon," Burger said.

With such a large founding class, the fraternity has been able to hit the ground running. Already this year they have raised

charity funding for ALS and domestic violence awareness through "Pie a Phi" events and held a walk for Alzheimer's disease.

They made their largest achievement last weekend.

"(On Nov. 2) we launched a new non-profit. We're partnering with a corporation called Supportive Care, where they hold over 350 nursing homes around the country and we are going to be volunteering at a local nursing home in New Haven," Sampson said.

Other local nursing homes have already reached out to Phi Delta Theta looking to get involved. The goal is to grow this non-profit into a national program.

"It's going to take some time. So, right now we are just more focused on a slow and smooth transition," Sampson said.

While their projects continue to grow, recruitment for the fraternity will slow down in the coming semesters.

"Next semester, it will be different, like we probably won't have 65 guys recruited again, but we are still looking to keep that open inclusivity," Burger said.

As the new fraternity continues to grow on campus, faculty and students are looking forward to what it will bring to Quinnipiac.

"I hope that Phi Delta Theta enriches the greater QU community, offers a place for belonging for men on campus, and creates a lasting legacy for years to come," Moses wrote.

For Sampson, it already has.

"We do believe that we are all one big team and one big family," he said.

He encourages anyone interested to reach out and get involved.

"So, if there is anyone out there who is second guessing themselves about joining a fraternity, take that chance," Sampson said.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY PHI DELTA THETA

Quinnipiac University's chapter of Phi Delta Theta officially joined campus this semester and recruited over double the average number of brothers for a new fraternity.