

Greek Life at the U: An Individual Behind The Chaos

By Alessandra Djohan

The University of Miami boasts a vibrant Greek life, filled with celebrations and scandals, which represents over one-third of its student population. However, there is only one primary person in charge of this sizable community.

At one of the most expensive universities in the nation, located in Florida, Greek life is a thriving, ever-growing community. Here at the University of Miami, Cristina Luna serves as the Director of Greek Life, being the primary advisor to the Association of Greek Letter Organizations, Panhellenic Association and honor societies, according to the [University of Miami's Official Website](#). However, her journey to attain this position was a long and illustrious one, with the job itself bringing its own challenges.

For her undergraduate journey, Cristina Luna chose to attend Baylor University where she pursued her degree in Studio Art. During her journey, she stated that she was inspired by the closeness and community service provided by culturally based frats there. "I wanted to create a similar space for girls," she said. She eventually focused on the group Hermandad de Sigma Iota Alpha, pursuing them for two years. After attending their interest meeting in New York she came out a changed person.

“I felt inspired when I met members of the sorority and their alumni, they were from all different walks of life but somehow so connected.”

She eventually founded the group at her university, later expanding the sorority to five other schools.

Luna is presently working at UMiami after joining May of 2017, now having gone through a tumultuous nine-year journey marked with highs and lows. She voiced that one of the major struggles during her career was the rapid growth of the community. “When I first started, there were 2200 students in Greek life, now there are 3850,” she stated, “it can be hard to create a structure that supports such big numbers.” Luna continued on stating that the school has done their best to support her. This year, they provided her with an Assistant Director for Fraternity and Sorority Life, who aided her with work. Parker Osth, a fourth-year architecture major and the Chair of the Associations of Greek Letter Organizations (AGLO), which serves as a support system for Greek leaders, according to [Miami Hurricane](#), agreed that more support is needed to lead this large community. “We need more students to help in managing overarching events and community relationships,” he stated, when asked if any improvements in Luna’s leadership could be made, “I think Dean Luna has done a fantastic job, it’s rare for a university to have such great support from administrators.”

An intriguing aspect of her career was when Luna was present for some of the most prominent Greek life scandals in the school’s history. She was present for the closing of two active chapters, Delta Gamma and Sigma Phi Epsilon. Delta Gamma’s Beta Tau chapter was closed

after violating the university's hazing and alcohol policies, according to the [Miami Hurricane](#). Meanwhile, Sigma Phi Epsilon's (SigEp) chapter closed following a review of anonymous reports of spiked drinks at a party and an unsettling video of members chanting songs with disturbing, sexual content according to [NBC 6 South Florida](#). Luna commented on these, stating that she doesn't view them as scandals but more so 'learning opportunities.' "I believe in second chances," she said firmly, "and I think it's powerful when we bring these groups back and teach them how to run a fraternity/sorority correctly." Osth seemed to agree with Luna's approach of teaching Greek life members conduct, instead of punishing them entirely. "I think Dean Luna is great at looking at the long term health of the community," he stated. Sarah Fetter, a sophomore double majoring in finance and political science, who is the president of the Pi Beta Phi women's fraternity also seemed to agree with Osth, praising Luna's efforts to better educate the Greek life community. "She meets with all the presidents regularly, addressing issues as they come up," she stated, "she's helped all of us become better leaders."

Although Greek life comes with its notable obstacles, Luna seems to feel that the highs outweigh them. "One of my favourite memories was bringing tailgate culture back onto campus," she noted, "when we used to tailgate in the sports stadiums, everything was disorganised." Furthermore, with one of Greek life's main focuses being philanthropy, Luna noted another highlight she had this spring 2026 semester was Greek Week. Greek Week is a weeklong philanthropic event where sororities and fraternities compete against each other through competitions, according to [The Commonwealth Times](#). Greek organizations nationally raise over \$7 million annually, with 10 million hours of volunteer service. "This year we had the privilege of bringing Greek Week back after one year off," Luna said, "We had a great battle of the DJs

where each frat had 20-minute segments.” Through this unique way of competing, the University of Miami was able to support the Sylvester Cancer Centre. This was done through participating in the Dolphin’s Cancer Challenge, the largest fundraising program in the NFL where the Miami Dolphins organization and its supporters collaborate to advance critical cancer research, according to the [Breast Cancer Research Foundation](#). Beyond raising money for charity, Osth acknowledged that Greek life events aided in fostering the school’s sense of community, stating that he’s made many “unexpected friends” through them. Fetter heavily agreed with this stating, “I’ve had so many opportunities to get to know the broader Greek community through these events.”

With the weight of having to run one of the largest communities on campus, a prevailing question is if there are any individuals who have helped guide Luna throughout this journey. Luna gave special thanks to Ryan Holmes, the Dean of Students. “My mom was battling cancer,” she stated. She further elaborated saying that her mom passed away this year, and she was grateful to Dean Holmes for always checking up on her.

Luna admits that she has learned many lessons from her leadership position that she wishes to pass on to the wider community. “My biggest takeaway is that every student should try and find their place in Greek Life,” she said, “there are a lot of transferable skills people can learn.” Luna believes that the social and leadership skills you attain from Greek life will ultimately help later in life. “The community helps you meet people from different walks of life,” she concluded. Osth and Fetter agreed with Luna’s statement. “I love that Greek life brings people together that are unlikely to interact without it,” Osth said. Fetter recalled that when she first met Dean Luna

she told her she wanted to join Greek Life because her parents met through it and Luna shared her own positive experience with this community. “I think that alone says enough,” Fetter said.

To conclude, it is evident that Greek Life can sometimes be an overwhelming community, always jam-packing campus with different events. At the University of Miami, Cristina Luna has juggled this community in her hands, having experienced chapter suspensions, philanthropy events and fun social gatherings, all after establishing a chapter of her own.



Cristina Luna, photo taken from [Greek University](#).



Plaque of the National Order of Omega, the National Greek Honor Society at the University of Miami, pictured above, taken on campus.



Mary B. Merritt Panhellenic Building pictured above, taken on campus.



Walkway to the panhellenic building pictured above, taken on campus.