This year has been marked by a number of large celebrations for our chapter. Not only is it our re-chartering anniversary, but we have also celebrated our overall longevity on Elon’s campus. Sigma Rho chapter of Alpha Phi Omega, Elon’s oldest service fraternity has fully embraced its new, expanded roll on Elon’s campus. No longer are we just a supporter of our membership, campus, community and nation, Sigma Rho is now a leader, pursuing great developmental projects in all of these areas.

We have begun to regain a touch with our historical roots and re-establish contact with alumni. While looking back on our past, we have seen that the determined actions of a few devoted individuals like our chapter’s founders and re-chartering members can make a huge difference in an entire organization and community. Using that knowledge, we have charged forward, taking on new responsibilities, including planning a Sectional Conference, hosting APO LEADS courses, developing an APO scholarship fund and assisting numerous other on campus organizations. These endeavors have been possible thanks to continuous growth in membership. In the past 5 semesters, we have seen and maintained consistently high pledge class enrollment and conversion numbers. This has brought a wealth of new skills, enthusiasm and leadership to the chapter. This growth can be attributed to a number of factors, including Elon’s increasing focus on volunteer service, a more volunteer based student demographic, our organization’s increased on-campus visibility, improved chapter operation and the increased appeal and cohesiveness of large chapter dynamics.

Many of these traits have taken a number of semesters to develop and they will continue to improve over time. However, the strengthening of the chapter has just begun. On May 10th of this year, Sigma Rho will host its first CPPC meeting in many years. This will help the chapter not only comply with national quality chapter requirements, but also create a long term plan for annual operations. The future is never certain, but the advanced planning and achievements of Sigma Rho chapter over the past year has shown that we have secured our place as a serious and well respected presence on the campus of Elon University and are ready to maintain it for years to come.

Dear Alumni,

You have the unique opportunity to help our chapter in a new and exciting way. This year we established a Scholarship committee for the Sigma Rho chapter. To get this new initiative off its feet, we’re going to need a little help from our brothers. Though we’ve already raised $140, we’re no where near the amount needed to sustain an ongoing scholarship. As an Alumnus, you’ve been involved with our chapter and know well the value of service how much it can change a person’s life. If you’ve been looking for a way to stay connected to your brotherhood, this is the perfect opportunity. Any donations would be greatly appreciated.

Please send contributions to: Alpha Phi Omega Scholarship Committee
8914 Campus Box
Elon, NC 27244

Make checks to: Alpha Phi Omega
Re: Scholarship Committee

Sincerely, Courtney McClelland
The Ups and Downs of being Service VP

By: Frances Gee

Being SVP has definitely given me a much different perspective about APO because serving on the Executive board you see what goes into planning all the events, what executive members worry about, how exec plans to fix problems that arise in the chapter.

The downs that I have encountered as SVP are greatly overshadowed by the joys that come with the position. It is hard dealing with commitment levels of some brothers but that worry is wiped away by all of the passionate brothers who are always there for you. Finding a balance between seriousness and playfulness has been a challenge for me. Even though I struggle with this part of my position, I don’t really think too much about it because I have the support and commitment of so many passionate brothers. It is such a great feeling when you work really hard to get an event set up and when you present it to chapter everyone is pumped. It is equally exciting when you come to chapter with a last minute event from a community partner in need and all of the brothers want to help out. Seeing that there are 20-30 other people who are just as passionate as you are and are always willing to back you up in any way makes everything worthwhile.

Sectionals Conference a HUGE success

By: Carmen Isaac.

After 8 months of planning, squash buckling, and commandeering ships, the Sigma Rho chapter put on a Sectionals conference that won’t soon be forgotten. The weekend consisted of Launch and Achieve APO LEADS courses, as well as great workshops that included How to be an Effective President/Service Vice President, as well as a Step Workshop lead by our brothers from Sect. 80. At our Shake your Booty dance, Sigma Rho brought the funk with their rendition of Flow Rida’s “Get Low” for the Roll Call. Money and school supplies collected during the weekend were donated to the Massai Community in Kenya to help fund their growing schools. A special thanks goes to our wonderful Conference Chairs Amy Mahon and Carmen Isaac.

“Special Fridays” holds a Special Place in Brother’s Heart.

By: Megan Prilutski

Special Fridays is a service event APO participates in regularly where people who have mental or physical disabilities can come hang out one Friday a month, giving their caregivers the night off.

I have never been really comfortable working with mentally disabled persons, but I started volunteering at Special Fridays during my freshman year. I initially figured that some help was better than none and wanted to help give a caregiver a well-deserved night off. I never realized how much I would learn about myself through this program.

Through my time at Special Fridays, I have become comfortable around these special people. After my first time attending this event I relaxed and really started to have fun during and I learned that it really is true that any help does count and. But, most importantly, I have had the chance to see the life and happiness that these people receive from spending time with us once a month. It is this expectation of a couple of fun-filled hours that the regular Special Fridays volunteers have that keeps giving me a reason to return every time it is held.
Fellowship, APO style.

This semester has been an excellent time for fellowship. Our semi-formal, themed ‘Casino Night’ was a huge success. As a chapter we also put together a team for Elon University’s twenty four hour dance marathon, which benefits Duke Children’s Hospital. Regular dinners and other get togethers are mixed in with other more seasonal events such as a nonde-nominational egg hunt before our spring break, and a gathering to view the lunar eclipse that occurred earlier this semester. The bonds of our brotherhood are strengthened through our interactions at various fellowship and service activities. I would like to thank the members of the Sigma Rho chapter for extending me the honor of being their Fellowship Vice President this semester. I hope that this finds you all well!

In Leadership, Friendship and Service,
Sandy Halboth
Fellowship VP

APO and ESA tye-dye on the lawn

By: Chelsey McElwee

Colors weren’t the only things blending at one of our fall fellowship events. The brothers of APO invited their sisters in the Epsilon Sigma Alpha service sorority over to a brother’s home for an afternoon of tie-dying. Fall Fellowship Vice President Julia Roberts worked out a deal so the brothers and sisters were able to purchase white letter shirts for only five dollars. After a quick tye-dyeing tutorial everyone got to work, using different colors and designs to personalize their shirts. But tye-dyeing wasn’t the only fun going on that afternoon, while some people worked on their shirts others were playing Catch Phrase or eating snacks provided by the APO fellowship committee. The afternoon was a fun way for the brothers and sisters to meet and get to know each other. “I didn’t really know that a lot of these people were in ESA so it was fun to hang out with them,” said Freshman Courtney Snead.

“It was so fun to hang out with the brothers and the sisters, and get a cheap letter shirt!”
-Carmen Isaac, Sophomore

Semi Formal 2008!

Brothers waiting for the Lunar Eclipse!

Brothers and Sisters hanging out after Tye-Dying.
“Without the skills and support that APO offers it is unlikely that I would have had the courage (to start my own business)”

By: Ian Baltutis

Normal graduation worries for many students include getting a job, finding a place to live, sending graduation announcements and dealing with relatives. However, I have managed to add a few unusual items to the list, including negotiating with suppliers, making sure inventory stays in stock and implementing a multistate business management network. These added responsibilities come with owning your own virtual manufacturing company, no small task for any graduating senior. But, this has been made possible by a combination of the leadership skills development programs offered by both Alpha Phi Omega and Elon University’s Doherty Center for Entrepreneurial Development.

My business partners and I had determined that about ten percent of American washing machine owners have concerns about vibration and noise caused by their washing machine. We also had a solution already in the works. Our solution was a simple foot or caster that could be placed under each of the appliance’s standard feet which would isolate the vibrations caused during the spin cycle. As time passed and prototypes evolved, the product took on the name, Silent Feet.

We started our company, The Vibration Solution, LLC, and began sales in March 2008. The strength of our leadership team and business idea earned us a number of recognitions and we recently won the Evansville New Venture Creation Competition and $10,000 in venture capital. My partners and I will continue to run the business after school and joke, “instead of looking for a job after graduation, we’re looking for employees.” Without the skills and support that Alpha Phi Omega offers, it is unlikely that I would have had the courage and ability to take on this type of challenge.

Sigma Rho has been a huge support to me through my years here.

Silent Feet are currently available for purchase online at www.TheVibrationSolution.com.
**The Revolution**

By Christina Peterson & Julia Roberts

As Membership Vice President and Pledge Educator, Julia Roberts and I can not be more proud of this semester’s pledge class. A group of dedicated and excited individuals with a passion for leadership, friendship, and service, this pledge class is already starting to break the boundaries of the classes before. For one, they are participating in our new, 8-week program, expanded from last semester’s 6-week program. During this program, the pledge class is having meetings that include the discussion of Alpha Phi Omega history (nationally and within the campus), traditions, chapter structure, parliamentary procedure, executive board, advisors, and conferences. Pledges come from a variety of places around the country including Massachusetts, Maryland, North Carolina, Alabama and beyond. The majority are freshmen, though there are some sophomores and juniors as well. The pledge class’ most recent fellowship activity was painting the rock in the Greek Courts with APO’s letters and colors. The last meeting will take place on April 28th, followed by initiation on April 29th. Good luck to all of the pledges as they continue to finish the pledge process!

*Brothers pose with Loy Center Rock.*

**This Year’s Pledge Experience: A Brother’s Perspective**

By Jordan Mohr

This semester’s pledge experience was quite a memorable one, especially for the Spring class of 2008. When some were asked the opinion was unanimous: Alpha Phi Omega is a welcoming and extremely friendly place for those who wish to join. The defining feature of our chapter is that we are indeed a large, close-knit group of people really invested in our cause. We are organized and determined, but encourage fellowship as our maxim. The defining moment that will be memorable for years to come was the chapter’s participation in this year’s Elonthon. It is with pleasure to say that over half of our chapter turned out to support the life of one child. Our support and humanitarianism is a source of pride for our brothers and soon-to-be brothers as it should for all who come to us in the cause of humanity.

*APO 24-Hr Elonthon Dancers*

**This Year’s Pledge Experience: A Pledge’s Perspective**

By Kristin Feeney

Eight weeks ago, I began my journey to brotherhood. It’s been a bit of a rollercoaster ride with all those nail-biting Pledge Voting sessions… but it’s been the best experience of my life.

It’s incredible just what we’ve accomplished as a pledge class. We had a great dinner and a movie fellowship night. Plus, not one but two service events: Burlington Housing Authority and Adopt-a-Highway! Our last endeavor included a fundraiser for the APO Scholarship fund at Laser X.

Overall, the entire process has really helped me find where I belong on campus. I’ve gained amazing friendships and managed to help others along the way.

I’m anxiously counting down the days to initiation and can’t wait to wear my letters with pride!

*The Spring 2008 Pledge Class.*
**Alumni Updates:**

**Michael Harper:** One of our charter members now lives in Phoenix, AZ with his wife Ann and his three teenage children Michele, Monique and Ryan. He is working on the pre-opening of the first Resort and Spa in North America for InterContinental Hotels Group. He wishes to say Hello to all his original line brothers!

**Carrie Johnson Gref aka CJ:** Carrie pledged in 1999 and after graduating Elon in 2002 married Brian Gref in 2005. They welcomed Zachary Anthony Gref into their family in 2007 and live in Jacksonville Fl.

**Chris Knight:** Another re-chartering member has been married to his wife Lisa for 5 years. He works in the filmmaking business, producing videos and commercials. One of his commercials ended up on the E! show “The Soup.” check it out: [http://youtube.com/watch?v=51FpFrMVWOo](http://youtube.com/watch?v=51FpFrMVWOo)

Want to tell your brothers how you’re doing? Email aposigmarho@gmail.com And we’ll include your updates in the next newsletter!

Be on the lookout for information on homecoming 2008. Mark your calendars for November 8th, and come back to Elon to see some old brothers, meet some new ones and hang out at a tailgate before the Phoenix take on Western Carolina.

Check out our website [http://org.elon.edu/alphaphiomega/](http://org.elon.edu/alphaphiomega/) There’s a special section for alumni to submit contact information etc. So if you know of any brothers who aren’t receiving updates from the chapter, let them know that we want to hear from them!