Rho Omega Receives the Founders’ Circle Award

At the 2014 Kappa Sigma Fraternity’s East Leadership Conference, Rho-Omega, a Chapter not even three years old, won the coveted Founders’ Circle Award. The Founders’ Circle Award is the highest award a Kappa Sigma Chapter can receive, having been awarded this year to only 6% of over 318 Chapters. The magnitude and profundity of this achievement for the Chapter is absolutely immense. Kappa Sigma Rho-Omega, the first social fraternity to charter at Stevens since 1938, could have never imagined the success the Chapter would gain in such a short time. It has initiated 86 men, performed over 6,000 hours of community service, and has raised thousands of dollars for charitable causes.

In addition to this award the Chapter received an impressive 13 others. Rho-Omega received the Founders’ Award of Chapter Excellence, also called the F.A.C.E. award, which is only granted to 10% of Kappa Sigma Chapters. Rho-Omega and its fellow Chapters of the NJ District received the District of the Year award and the District F.A.C.E. award. Thanks to the work of Scholarship Chairs, Kubis and Simms, and the hard work in academics of the Chapter, Rho-Omega was awarded the Silver Bowl Award for Academic Excellence as well as the Academic Excellence Award. The Chapter was also commended for its work in Ritual Proficiency by receiving the 100% Ritual Proficient Award. The work of Service Chairs, Zavoda and Doshi, brought Rho-Omega Outstanding “A Greater Cause” Program. Our Pledge Program, run in the 2013-2014 academic year by Brothers Rochette, Guarriello, Kliks, and Sasso, was recognized for its achievements with being awarded Outstanding “Brothers In Action” Program For Pledges.

Multiple Brothers from Rho-Omega were recognized for their devotion to the Order and the Chapter, including one Brother, Julian Gallo, winning Brother of the Year. Brother Joe Pinckney, the current Grand Master of Rho-Omega was awarded with Outstanding Grand Scribe. Graduated Brother Joe Bernardo was awarded with Outstanding Grand Master of Ceremonies. Brother Brian Ginebaugh was awarded with Outstanding Grand Procurator. Last, but certainly not least, graduated Brother Paul Pavlich was award with Outstanding Grand Master. Rho-Omega is incredibly proud of these gentlemen and thanks them for the immense dedication they have to the Chapter.

With all this achievement the Chapter is excited to see what is in store for Rho-Omega in the years to come. The Chapter doesn’t forget it’s humble beginnings, though, and would like to thank all those who made us what we have become today, namely the Founders, for their sacrifice, diligence, and commitment to the Chapter and the Order.
Brother Vedanta Performs at NJPAC

Over the summer Brother Vedanta Nayak got the privilege of performing at NJPAC. NJPAC, which stands for New Jersey Performing Arts Center, is one of the largest and most prestigious performing arts centers in the nation. Brother Vedanta performed on Teacher’s Day, a day when Hindu’s thank their teachers. The event consisted of many dances, speeches, and vocal performances. Brother Vedanta sang with his family while being accompanied by professional instrumentalists. The event had over 2000 people in attendance from 15 different countries.

New Digs for the Kappa Sigs

After a year and a half of residence in the western half of 926 Castle Point Terrace, the Rho-Omega Chapter acquired the entire duplex this August. This new addition means that Rho-Omega can now have 16 of its Brothers under one roof. Valued at $2.6 million, this townhouse is the perfect residence for a Kappa Sigma Chapter. Brothers have begun innovating to improve the new space, adding rooms such as a music room equipped with 5 Guitars, 2 Basses, and a Drum Set. The Chapter is grateful for the hard work of Brothers Paul Pavlich, Matthew Linden, and Jonny Alarcon in acquiring this space, as well as the sacrifice of the Brothers who contributed monetarily to its lease.

Paul and Julian’s European Adventure

This past summer founders Paul Pavlich and Julian Gallo embarked on a 35 day trip across the Atlantic to backpack their way through Western Europe. Their journey began in Nice, France and ended in Rome, Italy. On the way they stopped in locales such as Barcelona Spain, London England, Prague Czech-Republic, Berlin Germany, Dubrovnik/Zagreb Croatia, and of course Bologna Italy, the birthplace of the Order and the home to all Kappa Sigmas.

On their travels they met multiple Kappa Sigmas from around the country including a Brother from Gallaudet. Gallaudet University is home to the Mu Iota Chapter of Kappa Sigma, a Chapter consisted of entirely deaf Brothers. On the matter Brother Pavlich stated “Although this Brother could not speak and was deaf, we were able to share laughs and enjoy each other’s company because of our experience as fraternity Brothers. The strength of our order is unparalleled and something I am extremely proud to be a part of.”
Brother Gallo named Brother of the Year

Ralph Julian Gallo, a founding father of Rho-Omega and the Chapter’s first Grand Master, received the highest honor any Kappa Sigma undergraduate can achieve. Brother Gallo was named Undergraduate Brother of the Year at the 2014 East Leadership Conference.

Julian is a man of exceptional character and dedication. Throughout his collegiate career, he fought to bring Kappa Sigma to Stevens Institute of Technology. The obstacles were many and the odds were stacked up against him, but he had perseverance and a great team of 30 men who all shared in his passion. Finally on January 28, 2012, his dream was realized and Kappa Sigma Rho-Omega was founded at Stevens. However, he did not stop in his quest to strengthen and grow the Brotherhood. During his last year at Stevens, he served as a 1 of 5 undergraduate Brothers on the Undergraduate Advisory Committee to the Supreme Executive Committee of Kappa Sigma Fraternity. Brother Gallo was the sole representative out of all the Brothers from all the Chapters in Area 1.

Meanwhile, his dedication and service on campus continued as a student-leader, a Resident Advisor and a great mentor to Rho-Omega. We could not be prouder of Brother Gallo and thank him greatly for his dedication and service to our Chapter. A.E.K.D.B

Brother Rochette Becomes Master of The Ritual

On August 28th, 2014 Brother Paul Rochette became Rho-Omega’s second Master of the Ritual. As Grand Master of Ceremonies, Paul has continued to impress the Chapter with his leadership, diligence, and commitment to the Brotherhood. Rho-Omega is extremely proud of Brother Rochette and congratulates him on this tremendous achievement.

Brother Charalambous Becomes An American

The Brothers of Kappa Sigma Rho-Omega congratulate Brother Bryan Charalambous on gaining United States citizenship on July 24th, 2014. Brother Charalambous originally hails from Trèlex, Switzerland and moved to America with his family in December of 2005.

Look forward to Rho-Omega’s next newsletter coming out this December summarizing the Fall Semester.