For most college students, spring break is a week to spend either asleep in their beds at home or asleep on the beach in the warmer parts of the world, but for several Rho-Omega brothers, it meant the opportunity to serve the communities beyond the Northeast United States.

Two separate groups of brothers spent their spring breaks volunteering to build homes for those less fortunate. One group volunteered with Potter’s House in Guatemala, the other with Habitat for Humanity in Oregon. The Guatemala group spent the week building houses and bunk-beds for families living in extreme poverty on the Guatemala City garbage dump. The group also spent time volunteering with local children and families at the community center.

The Habitat group traveled with several other Stevens students and Professor J.W. Wharton to help repair and rehabilitate houses for low income families in association with Habitat for Humanity’s Collegiate Challenge program in the Portland, Oregon metro area.

Brothers Joe Pickney, Drew Capone and Matt Linden traveled to Guatemala with Potter’s House to build a home for a family living on the Guatemala City garbage dump. Here they pose with the family in the home that they built.

Brothers Tony Worthington and Joe Bernardo joined a group of Stevens students and Professor J.W. Wharton in Oregon volunteering with Habitat for Humanity.
Senior captain Dan Munt and Junior Tyler Hessler completed very successful seasons by placing among the top in the United States at the NCAA DIII Swimming Championships. Munt and Hessler combined on the 200 yard medley relay, setting a school record of 1:30.94. The swim was good for an 8th place finish and All-America honors.

Munt received a second All-America honor in the 400 medley relay with an 8th place finish in a school record time of 3:20.22. Hessler also took home two All-America Honorable Mention honors in the 400 and 200 freestyle relays. Munt was also on the 200 freestyle relay team.

Rho-Omega could not be more proud of the work these men put in for their accomplishments. Their example of diligence and commitment is inspiring.

Rho-Omega is proud to welcome its Gamma Class

Bid Night was held for all Stevens Institute of Technology Greek organizations on February 1st, 2013. Twenty three men decided to accept their bids to pledge Kappa Sigma – six more than the second largest fraternity pledge class at Stevens. This also marks the largest pledge class in Rho-Omega’s history, signifying the tremendous growth of the chapter in the past calendar year.

Members of the Gamma class are already emerging as leaders, organizing Rho-Omega’s second annual “A Day Without” service and fundraising event set to take place in April.

Rho-Omega is excited to see where the members of the Gamma class will take the Order and is confident that they will lead the chapter to reach new heights.

Rho-Omega brothers attended a multitude of information sessions on varying topics such as the Code of Conduct, Ritual, social media, and proper reporting. Rho-Omega’s Grand Master, Paul Pavlich, co-led a seminar on Running Effective Meetings with the Grand Master of Gamma-Upsilon (Rutgers). Many Rho-Omega brothers also advised colonies at Albany, Hartwick, Keane, and Catholic Universities on their successful transition from a colony to a chapter.

The highlight of the day for Rho-Omega was the “House Blessing” Award for the Chapter’s newly rented house at 926 Castle Point Terrace. Worthy Grand Master Nascimento presented the Award to GM Paul Pavlich. Rho-Omega would like to thank Kappa Sigma for their support and blessing of the new chapter house.

On March 23rd, the brothers got together at Mama Johnson’s field in Hoboken to volunteer at Hoboken Grace’s Easter Egg Hunt. Nearly 2,000 kids showed up to sift through the hay and look for 10,000 Easter Eggs filled with candy. The day started with set up at 7:00 AM to prepare for the flood of kids at 10:00. Brothers were distributed to various stations to give out prizes to kids who won games ranging from corn hole, soccer, basketball, t-ball, sack races, and many more. Thanks to Rho-Omega, kids all across Hoboken and beyond were able to celebrate a fun, safe, and family-friendly day.

Rho-Omega has taken great pride in diligence and commitment to the Kappa Sigma Ritual, becoming a 100% ritually proficient chapter within weeks of installation.

The chapter is currently leading the New Jersey Ritual Competition, with brothers having earned a total of 12 new certificates within the past three weeks. Rho-Omega currently holds a slight lead over our brothers at Stockton College and Rutgers University.

Emphasis on the Ritual has been a integral part of the development of Rho-Omega.
The Rho-Omega chapter has amped up its efforts in service to the Hoboken Community this semester, becoming integral parts in several community organizations including the Hoboken Family Alliance, True Mentors, and Hoboken Food Banks.

Brothers have been volunteering at True Mentors classes weekly since the semester began. Brothers help educate local children on topics such as science, cooking, healthy eating, sports, and dance. Rho-Omega brothers and pledges have also helped clean and organize the Hoboken food banks which serve around 100 families weekly for food and vital supplies. The Food Bank’s storage area was severely damaged by Hurricane Sandy.

Rho-Omega had its most successful academic semester to date, logging a combined GPA of 3.52 for fall 2012. This was good enough for the highest GPA for any Greek organization at Stevens and was also significantly higher than the all-men’s average GPA.

The Scholarship Committee, currently chaired by Brother Tommy Chu, has done an outstanding job helping the chapter excel academically. The brothers of Rho-Omega take their academics very seriously, and look forward to defending their title for years to come.

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Look forward to Rho-Omega’s final newsletter of the semester set to be published in May. It will feature the 17 graduating seniors who all have exciting futures ahead of them.