Rho-Omega receives FACE Award from Headquarters

The Rho-Omega chapter was honored to receive one of the Fraternities most prestigious awards. The Founders Award for Chapter Excellence or FACE was presented to the chapter this past semester. The FACE is awarded to chapters who show excellence in all aspects of the Fraternity ranging from leadership, fellowship, scholarship and service. The award is given to the top 10% of chapters in Kappa Sigma and Rho Omega is proud and humbled to have earned this honor. The chapter looks forward to maintaining its efforts and hard work to continue being the best it can be. This year our hard work and dedication to the teachings of the order have been well rewarded and we look to make the coming semester and year even better.

Chapter elects new Executive Committee

Every year five men are selected to become the leaders of Rho Omega. This coming year brings new hopes and successes to the future of Rho Omega. For the past year, Brother Paul Pavlich served as the Grand Master of Rho Omega making sure our Chapter functioned according to the principle and regulations of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity and of Stevens Institute of Technology. His efforts were tremendously instrumental to our success as a Chapter. Brothers Brian Ginebaugh (GP), Joseph Bernardo (GMC), Joseph Pinckney (GS) and Andrew Misthos (GT) were also fundamental parts of the success of the Chapter. Furthermore, the combined efforts of these five brothers made it possible for Rho Omega to receive one of the highest awards from Headquarters, the FACE award.

Without doubt 2013 was a marvelous year for Rho Omega. Now as 2014 starts, the new Executive Committee promises to bring more success to the Chapter. Former Grand Scribe and now Grand Master Brother Joseph Pinckney is ready to bring the Chapter to new heights and raise the expectations of Kappa Sigma. Alongside him, Brothers Jesse Weaver, Paul Rochette, Jonathan Endrikat and Matt Linden will serve as Grand Procurator, Grand Master of Ceremonies, Grand Scribe and Grand Treasurer, respectively. Together, these five men have become the leaders of Rho Omega for the 2014 year and are sure to bring glory to the Chapter and the Fraternity.
World’s Toughest Mudder

Running an obstacle course is not an easy challenge, but running a 24 hour race in the cold weather, covered in mud, scaling 12 foot vertical walls, and crawling under 60 feet of dangling electroshock wires is a feat in an entirely different realm. Brother Joseph Pinckney participated in what is known as the World’s Toughest Mudder; a 24 hour obstacle course designed to push its contestants to their limits. It took Brother Pinckney a great deal of training and motivation to complete the challenge. However, his most important motivation for participating in the challenge was the cause he chose to support: the Wounded Warrior Project. By the end of the competition Brother Pinckney was able to raise $750.

Inter-Fraternity Council Tailgate

On Wednesday September 4th the Stevens Inter-Fraternity Council hosted its first sponsored tailgate before the Men’s soccer game. Every fraternity was present with booths of their own. Kappa Sigma’s area featured XBOX, BBQ, refreshments and the chapter favorite: cornhole. The event was a huge success and many students attended including countless freshman still new to the campus who got a chance to meet many of the brothers. The success of the event was a true testament of the power of Greek organizations working together toward a common goal: the betterment of the student life here at Stevens Institute of Technology.

Chemistry Final Review

Finals at Stevens are indeed a difficult time for new freshman students. Having never been exposed to the type of examination process Stevens puts students through, students tend to become overwhelmed. However, this semester Rho Omega Scholarship Chair Russell Simms sought to end the anxiety freshman students face. Together with RAs and Rho Omega Brothers Daniel Munt and Matthew Heinrich hosted a Final Chemistry Review Session along with past scholarship chair Brother Edward Kubis. The three hour long review session was aimed to ease the student tension by going over the main course concepts and answering all the student’s questions. The review was a great success, over 60 students attended.

Multi-Chapter Pledge Retreat with Gamma Upsilon (Rutgers)

This past semester Rho Omega decided to incorporate a new tradition for our pledges. During the Pledge Process, pledges are taught the values of the Four Pillars of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity, Leadership, Scholarship, Fellowship and Service. To future develop these values amongst Brothers and Pledges, Rho Omega and the Gamma Upsilon Chapter of Rutgers co-hosted their first ever Pledge Retreat. During this two day weekend retreat Brothers and pledges from both chapters spent their time together hiking and diligently learning about the principles that unite all Kappa Sigmas. Rho Omega looks forward to another successful Pledge Retreat in the near future.
Service Filled Semester for Rho Omega

This semester was filled with many service opportunities for the chapter, and the Brothers stepped up every chance they got. Rho Omega accumulated over 1700 hours of community service during the Fall 2013 semester. The latest event was Hoboken’s Fall Harvest Festival on our beautiful waterfront. Brothers helped build the hay maze, and assisted in setting up the petting zoo as well as breaking down at the end of the day. The event was well attended as it is every year and over 20 brothers volunteered over 100 hours. Many of the recently initiated Delta class (still pledges at the time) also donated their time.

Volunteering at the Vendy Awards is rapidly becoming a chapter tradition. This was the third year the chapter helped at the food truck competition held once every 12 months. The event is organized by the Street Vendor Project which fights for the rights of food trucks throughout the US. Brothers were in Brooklyn from early morning to setup until 10pm breaking down the event. The chapter helped in every aspect of the event from setting up tables, distributing refreshments, assisting the judges, cleaning up during the day, breaking down at night, and helping the food trucks get their food out to the large crowd. 29 brothers volunteered at the event, and the Vendy awards were ranked the 5th best event in NYC for 2013 by Eventbrite.

Once a semester all Kappa Sigmas across the US and Canada come together in a weekend of service, this year the National Day Of Service was held the weekend of October 4-6. Rho Omega donated their time to the first annual Hoboken City Challenge Race. The race is an obstacle course through the streets of our beautiful home town. The brothers both helped set up the obstacles and race equipment but also helped in directing runners through the race as well as at each obstacle. The event was a great success and will be held again next year, the chapter hopes to have the chance to help!
Delta Pledge Class Initiated

The Chapter pledged in the Delta class on the first Friday of this past October. After working diligently throughout their pledge process and showing outstanding characteristics in each of our four pillars Rho-Omega’s fourth pledge class was initiated to our brotherhood. Brothers Keith Monteiro, Kamal Baktha, Brian Madden, Dan Huber, Austin Chung, Luke Magera, Dustin Heitner, Mike Sasso and Nicholas Cundari were welcomed to the order. Congratulations and we wish you the best in your eternal growth within our brotherhood and throughout life.

10 Brothers Receive SLAs at NYC Founders Day Event

On December 14th 2012 six Rho-Omega brothers received SLAs (Scholarship-Leadership Awards); a year later on the 13th of December 2013 the chapter nearly doubled in SLA recipients. Congratulations to our 10 brothers who received Scholarship-Leadership Awards at the 2013 Kappa Sigma Founders’ Day Dinner in New York City. The Awards are given to the top 2% of all brothers nationally and recognizes achievements within Kappa Sigma, in university community and in the classroom.

Rho Omega Set to Host Multi District Conclave

March 1st Rho Omega will be hosting the 2nd annual Garden State Multi-District conclave. All chapters from New York, New Jersey, and Long Island are invited and encouraged to sign up on Eventbrite by searching “garden state multi district conclave.” Spots are limited and filling up quickly so sign up soon! Worthy Grand Scribe Jeff McKenzie will be the keynote speaker and other special guests include PWGM and 2011 Man Of The Year Brian O’Dwyer as well as Exec. Director Mitchell B. Wilson. For any question feel free to contact Rho Omega GM Joseph Pinckney or NJ DGM Steven Couras. Rho Omega hopes to see you there! AEKDB

Look forward to Rho-Omega’s next newsletter coming out at the end of May summarizing our accomplishments from the Spring 2014 semester.