

Greeks volunteer on campus

Caroline Battista

Reporter



Photo submitted

Members of Sigma Sigma Sigma try to stay warm while participating in "Rockin for Robbie."

Often, when people think of Greek life here on Elon's campus, they associate Greeks with social functions and sporting letter shirts.

However, Greek organizations contribute a lot more to Elon than stereotypes suggest. Community service plays a very significant role in Greek life here on campus.

The 2000 Elon Volunteers! end-of-the-year report stated that members of Greek organizations donated more than 7,000 hours volunteering for various service events to support their philanthropies.

All Greek organizations have a philanthropy they support with events such as "Frats at Bat" or "Pumpkin Fest." Often, other organizations will donate money to a philanthropy as an entrance fee to compete in events. "Frats at Bat," "Pumpkin Fest" and "Derby Days" are all fundraisers, and most organizations have at least one such event per year.

More than \$25,000 was raised and hundreds of canned goods and clothing items were collected and donated to various charitable groups.

Lindsey Westcott, a member of Phi Mu, said that joining a sorority

has helped her become more involved in community service.

"It is so rewarding when we get the chance to visit the patients at Duke Children's Hospital and actually see what our donations to the Children's Miracle Network have been able to provide for them, such as new heart monitors and incubators," Westcott said.

Fraternalities are equally involved and supportive of their philanthropy. Zach Palmer, a member of Lambda Chi Alpha, said that participating in service events organized by his fraternity has provided him with the chance to give back

to the community.

"This year, Lambda Chi collected and donated 8,000 pounds of food to the local charitable organization, Loaves and Fishes," he said. "It is nice to know that through our efforts many families around the Burlington area will be fed."

Greeks also contribute to many other causes throughout the year. They can be seen helping out at the Special Olympics or donating blood. In the days following Sept. 11, Lambda Chi Alpha joined with Sigma Sigma Sigma to raise more than \$5,000 in two days to donate to the Red Cross.

Greek Vocabulary

- Alumni:** initiated members who are college graduates
Chapter: the name applied to the local organization of a national fraternity or sorority
Depledge: the process of dropping out of a fraternity or sorority after joining, but before initiation
Formal Recruitment: a series of events hosted by each fraternity and sorority during a period that is scheduled and governed
IFC: Interfraternity Council; the national and local governing body for fraternities
Initiate: a man or woman who has recently become an active member of a fraternity or sorority
Initiation: the formal ceremony in which new members become active members
NPC: National Panhellenic Conference; the national and local governing body for sororities
NPHC: National Pan-Hellenic Conference; the national governing body for historically black sororities and fraternities
New Member: a man or woman who has accepted the bid offered by a fraternity or sorority and has taken the first step towards full membership but has not been initiated.
Panhellenic: the governing body of all campus sororities
Philanthropy: a charitable project sponsored by a fraternity or sorority
Recruitment Week: the period in which fraternities, sororities and potential New Members become acquainted

Greek Alphabet

Alpha	Nu
Beta	Xi
Gamma	Omicron
Delta	Pi
Epsilon	Rho
Zeta	Sigma
Eta	Tau
Theta	Upsilon
Iota	Phi
Kappa	Chi
Lambda	Psi
Mu	Omega

List compiled from 2002 Guide to Greek Life at Elon University

Greek system at Elon builds on traditions, strives for unity

Becca Lestner

Reporter

Long before Elon became a university, the Greek life system was born on campus. Sigma Sigma Sigma was the first sorority on campus in 1970, and Kappa Sigma became the first fraternity in 1973.

The system has continued to grow each year with the help of a successful recruitment process.

The 2002 spring Panhellenic recruitment was no different, adding 271 women to the mix of

more than 1,100 Greek students.

More than 35 percent of Elon's undergraduate student body is affiliated with a Greek organization.

A team of both faculty and student leaders is responsible for making the system prosper and function. Representatives from each organization form councils to govern Greek life.

Three Greek councils that govern national Greek life are represented on all college campuses. Interfraternity Council oversees Elon's seven fraternities, National Pan-Hellenic Council rep-

resents the six historically black organizations on campus and Panhellenic council represents the seven sororities on Elon's campus.

Supervising the future of Elon's Greek system are Director of Greek Life Melissa Murphey and IFC Advisor Norman Schroth. Both are new to Elon. Murphey said she wants to strengthen the system and add ideas.

Murphey said one important issue is alcohol abuse.

"We are always concentrating on risk management and alcohol

use," Murphey said.

Workshops and meetings are held by the student-run organization titled Greeks Advocating Mature Management of Alcohol. Abuse of drugs or alcohol is a constant concern on college campuses.

G.A.M.M.A. tries to educate the Greek community about possible consequences.

Murphey has also added new programming, which includes a presidents' retreat, a charity dance marathon and a new member conference.

Each are being planned for

upcoming semesters and will incorporate members from all three councils to help unify all Greeks on campus.

The new member conference is a new idea striving to bring together members of all Greek organizations.

"It will probably be about five members from each chapter," Murphey said. "It will help to build a community from the time they are new."

The leadership workshop will strive to teach incoming Greek members about the importance of unity and teamwork.