

# Plans for new campus fraternity finalized, decision on new sorority expected soon

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Design Chief

Resulting from Pan-Hellenic Council's conversation in Spring 2009 concerning the increasing number of Greek students at Elon University, the school will add two Greek organizations to campus this year.

The first organization is Delta Upsilon International fraternity. The second is a sorority, which has yet to be determined. The chosen sorority is expected to be announced at the end of October, according to Shana Plasters, director of Greek Life at Elon.

"The goal is to add more diversity, more options and to expand and improve the overall health of our Pan-Hellenic programs at Elon," Plasters said.

In order to achieve these improvements, Elon's Greek community decided collectively to make additions to the system.

The process involves an open invitation to all national Greek organizations to come to Elon and formally present their organization.

Students and faculty members then review the respective organizations' applications, and three fraternities and three sororities are invited back to give more in-depth presentations of their organizations. Elon then chooses the organization they think is the best fit.

This is how the newest fraternity, Delta Upsilon International, was chosen. The new sorority will be chosen in the same way.

The average size of most sororities' pledge classes is 30 to 40 people, with 140 in an entire organization. The addition of a new sorority will spread out those numbers, allowing

for personal relationships to develop among new and existing members, according to Rex Waters, associate dean of students.

"We're hoping that more Greek organizations will make way for more intimate classes and reduce the overall size of each group to ensure manageable numbers," Waters said.

With the increasing number of women involved in Greek Life, the addition of a new sorority will create better group dynamics as well as a healthier atmosphere, he said.

The average fraternity pledge class size is significantly smaller than that of sororities. The Greek community wished to welcome a new fraternity to campus in order to provide more choices for prospective male students.

"We're increasing the number of organizations to provide more options for students and to diversify philanthropy opportunities at Elon," Waters said.

Because each Greek organization has a different focus, the addition of two organizations at Elon will increase diversity in philanthropy projects.

"We want the new chapters to be successful," Waters said. "And we want them to have strong national support."

He also said the number of chapters and alumni in the area play a role in choosing organizations that best fit with Elon.

"The organizations chosen will fit with Elon's mission," Plasters said. "They will have programs that support academic rigor and other integral parts of Elon's mission as a university."

The two new organizations will have different recruitment processes than the already established organizations at Elon. Unlike the other fraternities at

**DELTA  
UPSILON**  
international fraternity

**Founded:**

Nov. 4, 1834 at Williams College  
in Williamstown, Mass.

**Mission:**

Building better men

**Motto:**

Dikaia Upotheke

Justice, Our Foundation

SARAH BETH COSTELLO | Graphics Editor

Elon, Delta Upsilon's ritual of joining is not kept secret.

"The initiation ceremony is public and the programs are shared," Plasters explained.

The national organization will be present on campus following fall break. At this time, they will begin selecting upperclassmen for leadership positions.

"The national organization will be here to select a 'colony class,'" Plasters said. "These students will act as the founding brothers of the fraternity."

Once the new sorority is selected, it will be incorporated into the formal recruitment process with the other established sororities at Elon.

"The new sorority will be included in the first round of recruitment, but then will be removed from the process afterward," Plasters said.

If girls are interested in joining the new sorority, they can drop out of the recruitment process and become affiliated with the new sorority after the recruitment process is over. Girls also have the option of going through the recruitment process and then becoming involved with the new sorority if they do not commit to another Greek organization.

"The new organizations will represent the scope and scale of students on campus," Waters said. "And the newly selected leaders will have the opportunity to shape and form the culture of the organizations."

Plasters said new organizations have generally been added to Elon's campus every few years. The most recent additions to Greek Life at Elon were the sororities Alpha Chi Omega in 2000 and Delta Delta Delta in 2005.

## Search continues for new university chaplain

Caitlin O'Donnell  
News Editor

The Truitt Center for Religious and Spiritual Life will restart the search for a new university chaplain in October, to replace the position vacated by Richard McBride in 2009.

A search committee of students, faculty and staff, chaired by Anthony Hatcher, associate professor of communications, originally narrowed the applicant pool of more than 100 candidates down to three finalists, who were interviewed on campus last year.

After this initial process, the committee decided it would serve well to take time off from the search and develop a common mission statement for the direction of religious life on campus, said Smith Jackson, vice president and dean of Student Life.

"It was a time of discernment," Jackson said. "When you have a chaplain for so long, you don't always quickly replace them."

A committee was subsequently appointed by President Leo Lambert to develop a vision statement for a further search for the chaplaincy.

"The idea was to evaluate what the needs of our community are and predict what they will be, including demographic data and shifts in population," said Phil Smith, associate chaplain and director of Religious Life.

Jackson said the developed plan aimed to consider the needs of not only individual students, but also their needs within their particular community of faith and how that played out in a larger context.

"In the statement, the movement begins with self and ends with the world, to make a conscience effort to look inward, around and then further outward," he said.

According to Jackson, a committee is currently being formed to restart the search. He said it should conclude next spring and the new chaplain will begin his or her work that summer.

"We want someone who is experienced working with different faith values, who will honor and support each tradition and religion and also create programs among different traditions," he said.

Jackson said the overarching responsibility of the chaplain is to oversee, provide for and facilitate the overall spiritual well-being of the campus.

"It's a person who's called on sometimes when there are difficult issues, to speak a word of comfort and deal with crisis," he said.

One part is attending to large ceremonies and services on campus, Smith said, and making sure students have access to resources needed for spiritual growth.

"It's about pastoral care, being involved with and engaged in lives of the university community and walking with people through difficult circumstances and helping them celebrate times of joy in their lives," he said. "There's this interconnectedness with student life."

Because of Elon's history and heritage, Jackson said the position of Chaplain on campus is a significant one.

"Not just because we're founded by the church, but there's been this idea, this approach to education that it's about the total student, including the mind, body and spirit," he said. "There needs to be some level where that's somebody's job and not left to chance."

At such a critical time of life, Jackson said students are often working to create their own, individual faith, away from the communities that helped them form it.

"You're solidifying your own beliefs and

philosophies, not abandoning what's been given to you but determining what's yours and what you will own," he said.

As a part of this goal, Jackson said the committee is considering an interfaith learning community as well as religious life houses, such as the Newman House, designated for Catholic students.

After a survey of students, Jackson said people responded well to the proposal, particularly to a house for Jewish students on campus.

"For people a part of religious communities, the value is being with people who share similar views," he said. "It's a resource and a place to belong."

Jackson said he considers religious communities a benefit for those who reside in them and educational for those who are part of other communities.

"It's an identified place to learn," he said. "The more we understand, the less we misunderstand each other."

With the addition of a multi-faith center to campus, Jackson said the center and communities will complement, rather than compete, with one another.

"The community houses would be more for development and growth of those (communities), but there would still be programming available at the center," Jackson said. "It's a place that is specific and dedicated with the idea that events are also in the multi-faith center."

To Jackson, an important aspect of all of these plans is the inclusion of all traditions, including nonbelievers.

"Part of the office's role is to do our best to help all of our students wherever they are and whatever they're seeking," Jackson said. "We're going to make sure students have resources to the extent we can provide them or point them toward those resources."

## Poll uses updated techniques to gauge public opinion

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understand each person's outlook.

"Few policies are black and white," Bacot said. "You can't just ask one question and figure out what people think."

Operating through the department of political science, the Elon Poll depends on students to operate.

"Elon students, being who they are,

are very engaged and very motivated, high achievers," Bacot said.

The poll depends on students to volunteer and work their chosen hours, but they are paid for their work.

Using a stratified sample of households across the state, the 584 interviewees were selected

considering their location including state, county and zip code. Doing so allows the poll to effectively sample a large population, resulting in accurate poll findings, Bacot said.

Students complete the interviewing associated with the poll. To Henry Young, a junior political science major, students get a unique

understanding from working the poll.

"I think it's good for us to see how this side of politics works," Young said. "You get something from interviewing that you don't see in the data, a better understanding about how people feel than by just coding the numbers."