

# Going Greek

The three groups profiled here demonstrate diverse elements in the Greek community.

Tri-Delts are the oldest sorority, while APO is unique in its service orientation and the Alphas are representative of the black Greek groups.

## Alpha Phi Alpha betters future through community service

By ANDY FERGUSON  
PERSPECTIVES EDITOR

Founded on the principles of scholarship and a love of mankind, Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity has strived to better the community around it and to carry on the legacies of such distinguished alumni as Anthony Young, Lewis Sullivan and Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

While they are not a large group (the Alphas consist of five brothers), they have been able to accomplish many things in the way of community service.

According to senior Steve McLeod, the president, most of the service work done is off-campus and within the black community.

"We are very community service based. This is especially important to the black community to have programs to help black males to do the right thing and direct them in the right path," McLeod said.

As a part of community service, Alpha brothers serve as educators and role models to middle school students in Winston-Salem, encouraging the teens to stay in school.

The brothers also perform a step show for the middle school students. According to McLeod, a step show is a series of beats and stomps that originated from African-

American ancestral roots.

The Alphas also participate in an annual step competition held in conjunction with other schools.

Junior Adrian Bass enjoys seeing the immediate results of the community service work that is done. "There is an immediate benefit because what we do is hands-on,

**"Membership is taken very seriously. When you decide to be a brother, you make a decision for life."**

Steve McLeod  
President of Alpha Phi Alpha

and I get to see the results of what I am doing," he said.

Other projects in which the fraternity is involved include the Human Service Alliance, an organization that works with terminally ill children; Project Pumpkin; and an annual bowl-a-thon. The Alphas also participate in a highway clean-up with alumni in the area.

"Membership is taken very seriously.

When you decide to become a brother, you make a decision for life.

If you meet people in the organization, no matter where they are from, they will bend over backwards to do something to help you," McLeod said.

The pledging process for Alpha Phi Alpha and other black Greek organizations is different from the rest of Greek life.

The organization has to follow national protocol, meaning that before a pledge can become a brother, he must meet qualifications and be accepted by the national fraternity.

Qualifications to be a brother are different, as well. One of the founding principles of the Alphas is scholarship. Brothers must have a 2.6 grade point average this semester, and the requirement will rise by .05 of a grade point each semester until the spring semester of 1997, when brothers will be required to have a GPA of 2.75.

While low membership is a concern, the Alphas remain optimistic that their numbers will increase.

According to senior Quentin McPhatter, "In a sense, we are not worried about the future. This freshman class has the highest number of blacks ever and there is an increasing number of black males, which is good for us."

McPhatter said that as long as the fraternity is able to have an increase of some kind every semester, it will be fine.

Bass said that low numbers are a consequence of the community because there is not a large black population at the university.

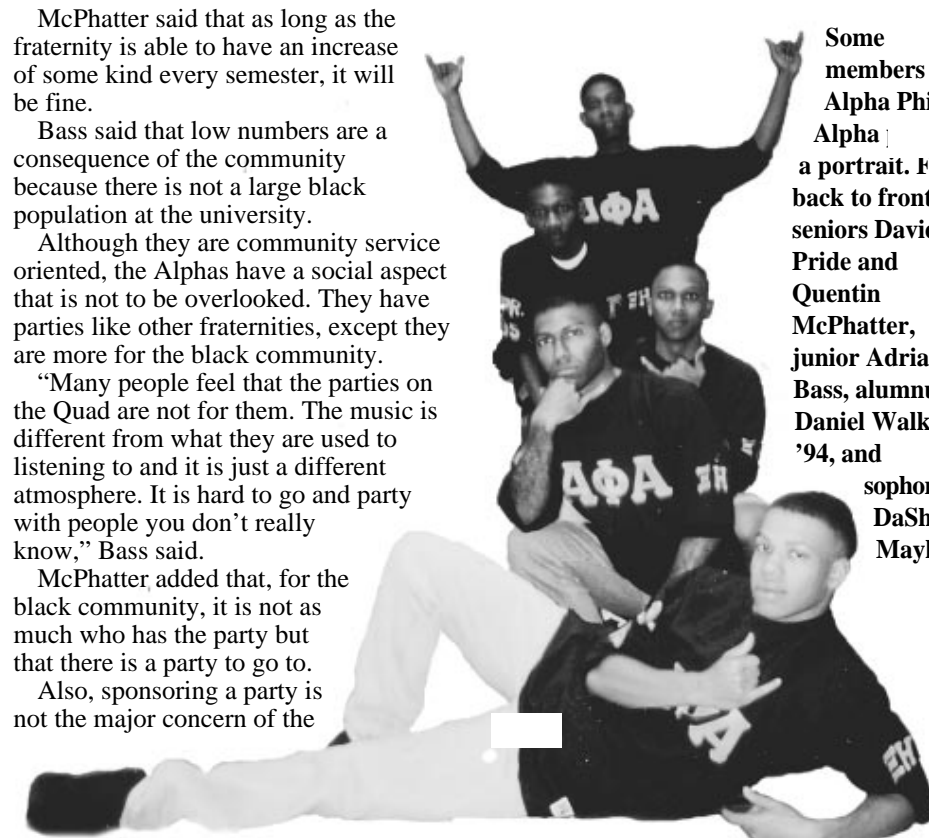
Although they are community service oriented, the Alphas have a social aspect that is not to be overlooked. They have parties like other fraternities, except they are more for the black community.

"Many people feel that the parties on the Quad are not for them. The music is different from what they are used to listening to and it is just a different atmosphere. It is hard to go and party with people you don't really know," Bass said.

McPhatter added that, for the black community, it is not as much who has the party but that there is a party to go to.

Also, sponsoring a party is not the major concern of the

fraternity and the brothers do not worry about that aspect.



Some members of Alpha Phi Alpha: a portrait. From back to front: seniors David Pride and Quentin McPhatter, junior Adrian Bass, alumnus Daniel Walker, '94, and sophomore DaShonn Mayhew.

Courtesy of Alpha Phi Alpha

## Alpha Phi Omega finds niche serving community and students at large

By LEE ELLEN SKELTON  
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Imagine a fraternity where the brothers are so motivated in what they do that they often commit 50 to 75 hours of service to the group. The members of the Alpha Phi Omega fraternity, the only service fraternity on campus, often spend that much time trying to help others.

There are many differences that distinguish APO from other fraternities, the most obvious being that they are a coed fraternity, the only one on campus. According to junior Becca Dick, the historian for the fraternity, APO was founded in 1952 as a coed fraternity, and has remained coed since.

Another major feature of APO is that the fraternity is service-oriented. The fraternity requires 20 hours of service per semester in addition to the time required for meetings. Members participate in many activities on campus that benefit all members of the community. Some members also contribute service outside of the membership requirement. APO is responsible for running fall and spring class registration, and taking down old flyers posted around campus and recycling them. They also distribute directories, organize the Red Cross Bloodmobile and set up luminaries for the Moravian Love Feast.

As much as APO does on campus, many of the brothers' most meaningful experiences have occurred through off campus service activities. One service APO performs is working in the Samaritan Ministries. The brothers go to the homeless shelter in the evening. They prepare and serve dinner for the residents. After dinner has been completed, there is a time for socialization and devotions. When it is time for the residents to sleep, the brothers monitor them in two hour shifts. In the

morning, they serve breakfast to the residents.

Foy White, a junior and the president of APO, has enjoyed her work at Samaritan Ministries. White said, "Many times they wake up grumpy, which they have every right to be, but once in a while, you get a 'thanks' from one of them. It's the greatest feeling in the world."

Another service APO participates in is going to the Best Choice Center, an after-school center for underprivileged children in downtown Winston-Salem. The brothers act as tutors, helping the children with their homework.

Scott Brown, a senior and the pledge master, said, "The kids really want to learn and they are very receptive to what you are trying to do."

Leigh Ann Teague, a freshman pledge, enjoys working with the fourth graders at the Best Choice Center. She works with this class, usually consisting of 10-12 kids, and helps them when they are having trouble with their homework.

APO is the only fraternity or sorority which freshmen may rush first semester.

APO has also adopted a grandmother. Her name is Christine Davenport. She is a resident at the Brook Ridge Baptist Home. At least once a week, two or three brothers go to visit Davenport to get to know her. They talk to her and engage in activities with her just as they would with their own grandmothers.

Amy Shaw, a senior and the service vice president, said that she has enjoyed her experience with the Amos Cottage, a hospital for children with rehabilitative problems. Some of the patients there are children who may be afflicted with learning disabilities or mental disorders.

Shaw said, "Because you see the same kids all the time, you get closer to them. It's a loving environment and it's very endearing to me."

Despite the emphasis placed on service, APO is a social organization; its members value the social aspect of their brotherhood just like any other fraternity.

While pledges have to accumulate service hours, they are also required to fulfill a number of social hours. The fraternity often has parties, goes out to dinner together, and does other activities, like going bowling on occasion.

This social time helps to promote unity among the brothers. It is a way for the members to get to know each other in a more relaxed environment. These activities also allow more brothers to participate as some of the service activities are designed for small numbers.

APO is a group of 36 active brothers, including pledges. With this relatively small size, there are plenty of chances to build community, especially through these social activities.

Robin Cook, a sophomore and the pledge class president, said, "There is lots of diversity in the group and we really have a lot of fun together."



Courtesy of Alpha Phi Omega

Senior Scott Harder, sophomore Bill Shoemaker, junior Karen Manship and sophomore Rob Sturuss walk around the campus on their way to handing out bids. APO, the campus' only coed fraternity, currently has 36 brothers.

## Tri-Delts excel socially, academically

By ZACH EVERSON  
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Despite its short existence at the university, Delta Delta Delta has found success in balancing the social aspect of Greek life with the community service and high scholarship aspects.

The Tri-Delts were the first national sorority on campus, as they arrived in 1988.

Unlike the other sororities on campus they were not a society

aspect of Greek life. The Tri-Delts co-sponsor numerous events with fraternities.

The fraternities usually call them to ask if they want to co-sponsor a party. The sisters vote on it during their chapter meeting. Any sister who votes "yes" must attend the party.

This year, however, with the implementation of new national party rules for sororities, things have changed.

According to Sarah Moore, the

problem.

Tri-Delts consistently have among the highest average sorority grade point average on campus and, because of this, rumors have floated around that a GPA requirement exists.

"It is completely untrue that we have a GPA requirement to become a member," Wright said.

To encourage high grades among the sisterhood, the Tri-Delts have an "A-B Bucket." "You get a prize if you got an A or a B on a test that

week and your name is drawn (from the bucket)," Moore said. To maintain good academic standing pledges are required to spend 3-4 hours a week studying in the lounge. There is also a tutor list for sisters who need help in certain areas of study.

Many school groups have wondered why sororities have lounge space, as they do not hold open parties and most lounges are too small to host chapter meetings.

Tri-Delts use their lounge for events such as studying, sisterhood functions, smaller group meetings and pledging ceremonies.

"It's also a place to hang out and just watch TV," sophomore Kelly Morrison said. Wright agreed, adding that they "have cookouts on the patio and sisterhood movie nights and TV. nights there too."

The lounge is also employed for Founder's Day, which takes place in November. Founder's Day celebrates the founding of Delta Delta Delta, which occurred Thanksgiving Eve, 1888 at Boston University.

On that day their lounge is open to all Tri-Delta alumnae, regardless of what chapter they are from. It provides the sisters with a chance to mingle with alumnae.

Other than Founder's Day, however, the only contact sisters have with other chapters are the State Meet and the annual convention, which only the president attends.

The State Meet occurs every two years and allows all Tri-Delta chapters in North Carolina to get together.

There are speeches from important alumnae and the presidents of every chapter.

Wright, who attended the conference when she was a pledge, said, "We broke down into different groups — all pledges got together, all sophomores and so on. It gave us a chance to talk with other sisters who were going through the same things we were."



Kristin Thompson

Tri-Delts during the Tri-Delta Triple Play, an annual coed softball tournament which raises money for children's cancer funds. Tri-Deltas participate in many volunteer services, targeted at raising funds for charities.

before becoming a sorority.

The group consists of about 80 sisters and regularly participate in numerous philanthropic and social events on campus and in the community.

The Tri-Delts' national charity is the Children's Cancer Charities. They assist this cause by volunteering locally at Brenner's Children's Hospital.

According to senior Jessica Wright, the social chairwoman, sisters visit the children several times during the year and try to incorporate themes into their visits, such as making crafts and gifts at Christmas.

They also raise money for Children's Cancer Charities through "Tri Delta Triple Play," an annual coed softball tournament that took place this past weekend.

Members of various Greek organizations took part in the charity event.

Tri-Delta volunteers as a group at the Samaritan Ministries soup kitchen located in Winston-Salem.

Additionally, they make an annual donation to the "Make-a-Wish" foundation, which enables chronically ill children to realize a personal dream, such as meeting an idol.

Social events are an important

vice president of public relations, sororities are now more inclined to ask fraternities if they would like to have an informal party together.

When a party is co-sponsored, the fraternity and sorority split the

**To encourage high grades among the sisterhood, the Tri-Delts have an "A-B Bucket." "You get a prize if you got an A or a B on a test that week and your name is drawn (from the bucket)," Moore said.**

costs with the exception of alcohol. According to Moore, sorority policy says that no dues should go toward the purchase of alcohol.

At parties, the sorority provides two sober hosts, one for the back door and one for the front. Each one of them works with a fraternity counterpart.

Moore said that the purpose of this system is to keep the organizations hosting the party from being held responsible in the event of a