

# SECTION



# NEWSLETTER

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## Did You Know...

There are currently over  
18,000 Actives?

## Important Dates

**March 5: Cookie Depot at Quinnipiac**

**March 17: Absolutely Incredible Kid Day**

**March 25-27: Spring Conclave (UVM)**

**Lighting the Torch of Service**

**April 15-17: Spring Youth Service Day (Weekend)**

**May 2: Reporting for SYSD due**

**June 3-5: Membership Academy in Kittery, ME**

**Summer (Date TBA): Section Service & Fellowship**

**November 4-6: Fall Conclave (UMass)**

**Harry Potter Themed**

**December 28-30: Regionals in Syracuse, NY**

**Superhero Themed**



### Section Chair facts!

**Pledged:**

Fall 2000 at UConn

**Positions held while Active:**

SVP, Treasurer, Pledgemaster,  
President

**Favorite book:**

Harry Potter, of course!

**Favorite restaurant:**

Olive Garden

**Can't live without:**

My blackberry, or my GPS

**Favorite Game:**

Monopoly

**Job:**

Children's Librarian

## A Note from Section 96 Chair, Kim

Hello Section 96!

I regret to inform you that.. it's almost time for midterms! Yikes! Since we're already half way through the semester, I have a bunch of updates for you all.

First, congrats to everyone on their fabulous pledge classes! We are experiencing some huge growth in Section 96, and that's thanks to your efforts during Rush and spreading the word about how awesome APO is. Next, it feels like the end of the semester is already coming near! Most of you will begin to think about elections soon. Make sure your CAPS is already scheduled, and that your liaisons or advisors are facilitating them. Finally, at the end of this semester, I ask that you all complete the applications for the national Chapter of Excellence and Pledge Program of Excellence awards. You are ALL amazing chapters and deserve these awards! They take a little time and effort to fill out the applications, but if you spread out the parts of the applications and delegate out the sections, it will make it a bit easier.

Please let me know if there's anything I can be doing to help you. The section staff and I are here to support your chapter programs and goals, so remember that we are here to serve you! As always, if you have any questions, comments, concerns, or opinions, you can email me ([section.96.chair@apo.org](mailto:section.96.chair@apo.org)), facebook me, call me, text me, BBM me, or even send smoke signals to me (although those may take a while). Carrier pigeons are also an option!

I hope to see you all at Conclave!

YiLFS,  
Kimberly Usselman  
Section 96 Chair

The University of Vermont proudly presents:  
**LIGHTING THE TORCH OF SERVICE**  
Section 94/96 Spring Conclave!  
Friday March 25<sup>th</sup> – Sunday March 27<sup>th</sup>



## Conclave Information

### March 25-27, 2011

#### Spring Conclave is at UVM in Burlington, VT

- The festivities will begin Friday, March 25 at 6:30pm in the Davis Student Center
  - Participate in registration and Olympic Themed Fellowships
  - Make sure your chapter brings canned goods to participate in the fight against hunger – each can is worth one point towards your chapter's overall point total in the Conclave Race!
- Banquet Saturday night will take place in the Davis Student Center – semi-formal or themed attire, please.
- Hotel information:
  - Best Western Windjammer Hotel & Conf. Center**  
1076 Williston Rd, South Burlington, VT 05403  
Call: **1-800-371-1125** and mention code **406247**  
Book by **February 28** to get **APO Rate**  
Price is **79.99/night** excluding taxes
- Any questions contact: AnniceSevett  
uvmconclave2011@gmail.com

#### Cost of Attendance:

\$40 for Registration  
\$5 for Shirt  
\$79.99/night for hotel

Get your school to help cover the costs!

# Spring Service Events

**Absolutely Incredible Kid Day** on March 17 is a national letter-writing campaign where kids receive letters of support, love and encouragement from parents and adults. It only takes a few minutes to jot a note that will be remembered and appreciated for a lifetime. The positive impact of these letters on kids is what Absolutely Incredible Kid Day is all about.

**Alpha Phi Omega's Spring Youth Service Day** (which can also be thought of as, "Spring Youth Service Weekend") is on April 15-17, 2011. SYSD is Alpha Phi Omega's way of participating in the largest service event in the world. To help plan your Spring Youth Service Day project, download a copy of the Spring Youth Service Day Handbook from the APO National website. This is something that needs to be reported on whether or not you do it in order for your chapter to remain in good standing, the deadline for reporting is on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Cookie Depot:** The Nu Alpha brothers at Quinnipiac University cordially invite you to participate in the Girl Scout Cookie Depot on Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. During the Cookie Depot, volunteers will unload Girl Scout Cookies from large delivery trucks, and pack them into Cookie Mom and Dad vehicles. A \*free\* pizza lunch will be provided for all volunteers. Come down to Monroe, CT and help Nu Alpha support local Girl Scouts in their efforts to raise funds for their programs!

When: Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>

Where: Village Square Plaza, 401 Monroe Turnpike (Route 111), Monroe, CT

What Time: 8:00am – 1:00pm; Please arrive by 7:15am

For more information, please contact Nu Alpha President Sarah Barrett: [Sarah.Barrett@quinnipiac.edu](mailto:Sarah.Barrett@quinnipiac.edu)

Think 7:15am is way too early to drive down to CT? A local alumni brother has graciously offered to host any brothers interested in coming down on Friday night!! So come join Nu Alpha in this sweet section service opportunity!

Alpha  
Phi  
Omega



**MEMBERSHIP  
ACADEMY**

**Cost of Attendance:  
\$35 for the weekend**

All inclusive:

2 nights hotel

3 Meals Saturday

Breakfast Sunday

**Membership Academy June 3-5, 2011  
Kittery, ME**

Curriculum includes aspects of:

- **Rush and Recruiting**
- **Brother Retention**
- **Developing Pledge Programs of Excellence**
- **Developing Chapters of Excellence**

The Academy curriculum is designed primarily for new chapter presidents, vice presidents of membership, pledge trainers, and members of interest groups & petitioning groups.

The curriculum is designed to assist chapters with different aspects of their membership program.

The Academy is also a great way to reinforce or refresh the membership programs already in place at established chapters.

The Fraternity subsidizes the cost of attending Membership Academy to make it open and accessible to all brothers interested in attending.

Register at [www.apo.org](http://www.apo.org)

Other locations: Washington, DC June 17-19

Houston, TX July 15-17; Los Angeles, CA July 22-24



## National Convention Recap

- Over 2000 Brothers gathered in Atlanta, GA for four full days of Leadership, Friendship, and Service
- The opening ceremonies kicked off with a drum corps exciting the brothers who were bedecked with glow-stick halos and bracelets
- The APO LEADS course were overflowing with hundreds going through Launch, Explore, Achieve, and Discover
- Service opportunities abounded – several hundred brothers donated blood and the Red Cross even extended the hours of the drive to accommodate all those who rolled up their sleeves for the cause
- New Year's Eve saw 1000 brothers ring the entire atrium to sing the toast song at midnight (and surprise the other hotel guests!)

# Congrats to Christine Topacio, our new Region 1 Director

## Where did you go to school?

Stevens Institute of Technology - pledged the Theta class of Theta Alpha in my freshman year, Fall 2003.

## How did you learn about APO?

My dad was an APO Philippines Brother at Eta Chapter at UP Diliman, I started attending Philippines alumni fellowship events when I was little, and the nerd that I am, only applied to schools that already had APO Chapters :)

## What made you want to join Alumni Staff?

APO was such a big part of my life while I was an undergrad that I couldn't imagine going without some APO in my life. Once I was settled into the "real world", I reached out to the local Section Chair and asked how I could help. I feel that the best way to give back to a Brotherhood that has given so much to me is by serving the Fraternity in whatever capacity the active Brothers wish me to, and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as an alumni volunteer.

## Will you miss being a section chair?

That's a really tough question. The thing I'll miss most is working directly with the Section 101 staff and students, as we've grown very close in my time as Chair. I don't see my new role as leaving behind 101, but as an opportunity to now build a relationship with all of Region 1.

## What influenced your decision to run for RD?

That's an even tougher question. I had been thinking of running for RD sometime in the future, but not quite in 2010. While at Nationals I was approached by some students and was asked if I would consider accepting a nomination for RD. Since it was not something I was fully prepared to accept at the time, I took those few nights leading to election to discuss with Region 1 staff and past RDs as to what the role of RD really entails and, to the active brothers as to what their expectations of an RD are. Based on those conversations, and some sleepless nights :) I made the decision that I did feel ready to take on this role. And the rest is APO history...

## How will your life change being on the Board of Directors?

Joining the board of a National Fraternity is a great responsibility and definitely not something that I thought I would be taking on at this age. On the upside, it is another opportunity to build my leadership skills and learn from the other esteemed members of the Board. I am extremely honored and to have been given the responsibility to represent the interests of Region 1 on the board, and to serve the Fraternity on a national level.



## Christine Topacio talks with us about becoming R1 Director

### **Are you excited about all the travel that comes with being R1D?**

Of course I am! I love to travel around the country (and the world) and get to visit my fellow brothers. Being RD just gives me an excuse to get to different places that I might not have otherwise been able to.

### **Did you have a blast at Nationals in Atlanta?**

Who didn't? Nationals 2010 in Atlanta will be one National convention that I will always remember, because it was an important turning point in my APO life. I mean, it was pretty scary getting installed in front of all those people at the closing banquet, all I could think was, "Don't fall!" It was also an awesome convention for me because this time I was actually able to enjoy it! I had served on Nom Com as an active in 2006, and served as advisor to that committee in 2008 - so I didn't really see much of the rest of convention. Don't get me wrong, I LOVED serving on Nom Com, but it was definitely a nice change of pace.

### **When do we get to see your shining face here in 96?**

I'll definitely be up for Conclave, and if I need to get up there for RD business before then, well, I'll be there for that. Otherwise, I'd be glad to accept invitations to chapter events if my schedule allows. So the sooner I get invites, the better! And from what I hear, skype is pretty useful, so I'm open to doing some teleconferencing as well.

### **Anything else you'd like to share with us.**

Coming from the Board meeting, there are a lot of goals set before us, and I am working with your Region 1 staffers to plan programming and events to help us reach those goals. You'll be hearing more from me and your program coordinators soon - so get ready to work hard and have fun! I'm looking forward to working with everyone in Section 96 and to meeting all of you!



## Spring 2011 Pledge Class Namesakes

The fraternity chooses a national Pledge Class Namesake for fall pledge classes; however, in the spring, chapters may choose their own Namesake and below are the Section 96 Namesakes for the spring.

### WPI

This spring we have the Clarence Plant pledge class; it is our first time having a namesake. He is one of our active advisors, has been with us since 1985, and works on campus here at WPI. He just received a prestigious award that included a key to the city of Worcester as well as the flag from Union Station. He is inspirational to many of us! He was also our keynote speaker at the banquet during our conclave.

### MIT

Jennifer Tu pledged APO in Fall '01 and went on to hold many important positions in the chapter, including SVP, MVP, and President. After graduating, she joined the Section 96 staff. Although she currently lives in California, she continues to steadfastly serve the section in her role as "Web goddess". She was awarded a Chapter DSK in 2008.

### UConn

Jean Hamer pledged into Delta Sigma in 1992, and came back to her home chapter as our Bylaws Guru and faithful adviser. She will continue to bring her experience as a lawyer and her passion for Lady Gaga as our Spring 2011 pledge class namesake.

### UMass

Jeanne B. Duggan pledged Kappa Omicron in Spring 2008, and has remained actively involved. She has maintained a level of trust, friendship, and communication with the active brothers. She is an alumni who takes that role seriously, giving input, and using her resources as a grad student in school counseling and as a Tutor Supervisor to consistently guide the brotherhood.

## Want an even better Newsletter?!

### **Content. Content. Content!**

Have some dates and information? Send them my way! Have some great news? Want to congratulate someone? I'll put it here! Got some images of your chapter, professional or Candid? Always Welcome! Have something to say, something to teach, words of wisdom, lessons learned? Write an article yourself, and I'll be sure to try to fit it in! Send it all to [mbmathis@gmail.com](mailto:mbmathis@gmail.com) and include the word "Newsletter" in the subject line.

Newsletters will be formatted and distributed seasonally (Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter) So be sure to get in your information ASAP! Don't miss out!

- Meli Mathis