



The Rho Chapter Crest

The Rho News

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Brothers,

Since my election as President at Homecoming this past Fall, we weathered several challenges related to probation and alcohol consumption. We were charged with violating college policy several times last fall and brought before the Student Conduct Committee twice. I am pleased to announce the last hearing finally resolved our status in late April. Among other requirements, we will remain alcohol free until November, 2011. For full details of the terms of our probation, contact one of the alumni officers. Make no mistake, we are fortunate to receive these penalties; we faced much worse.

While this timeframe may seem daunting, I am confident we can overcome it. In partnership with the college, we crafted a leadership plan for DKE. Since changing undergraduate leadership last fall, our undergraduates have prevented violations thanks to the implementation of this plan. They understand both the College's and alumni's expectations.

We also received a Satisfactory rating on COMPASS, missing Excellent by only one point. I am confident we have turned the corner on COMPASS, which is the metric that President Weiss cited at a recent Greek Community forum. While we formerly had trouble in this area, we institutionalized COMPASS through alumni oversight, currently headed by our newest alumni officer, Marshall Massey. In this way, we continue to exceed the College's expectations.

The Greek community continues to face challenges that are not unique to DKE. One example is Phi Gamma Delta (FIJI) which recently had their charter revoked. If their pending appeal is unsuccessful, the remaining fraternities will be ΔKE, ΔΥ, ΚΔΡ, ΦΚΨ, ΖΨ. We avoided FIJI's fate by working with the college to keep DKE a relevant and contributing member of the Lafayette community. As much progress as we have made, every step forward illustrates more we have to do to ensure our future sustainability. Our success on campus depends as much on the engagement of our alumni as it relies on our undergraduates.

Special points of interest:

- Adjudication of alcohol violations
- Please visit our website and forum database at WWW.RHODKE.ORG to view historic DKE images from the college archives.
- DKE Mentoring Program
- Remembering Brother Rossi
- An Appeal to the Alumnus by Francis A. March, Jr.

In addition to sending undergraduates to the DKE International Convention each summer, alumni are funding members to attend national leadership conferences such as the National Greek Leadership Association (NGLA). We will support our undergraduates in any such development initiatives suggested by the College.

Academic enrichment is another area of development for us. Part of this is simple self-reporting, which we are working to make a repeatable process so that we can receive credit for all the contributions undergraduates make to the campus. We are also looking at ways that we can raise our GPA. We are working with college to see if we need to be more selective in our recruitment or to offer more scholarship opportunities. We plan to leverage the college's Academic Resource Center (ARC) to help any members in need of assistance.

Additionally, I am excited to announce the kickoff of a mentoring program unique that only DKE can offer. In the pilot year this fall, we will pair each undergraduate senior with an

alumni mentor. See the article on page 5 outlining the program in full detail.

Our Treasurer, Peter Carlson, continues to negotiate a better financial relationship with the College. Besides revising our lease, we are working on getting the college to bring our house up to the standards of living at Lafayette College. Currently, the house is in dismal condition compared to other living facilities on campus, which places us at a severe competitive disadvantage. More details are in the Treasurer's Report.

With Dan Carreno's recent move to Colorado, Sal Caizzo stepped into Dan's shoes as the alumni association's local presence on campus. Sal will continue to work with the college on issues like inspections as well as provide guidance to the undergraduates on their day to day issues.

In planning for the future, we are looking at our past and how DKE has evolved throughout history. Jonathan Schimmel '09 recently asked the college archivist to scan in all historical DKE related images. The full gallery can be found on our website, <http://rhodke.org>. Those images include the first edition of the Rho News. On page 4 of this issue, we've reprinted an original article by Francis A. March, Jr. calling for alumni involvement. Our continued strength on campus is a result of the strength and resiliency of our alumni. His message is as relevant today as it was 100 years ago when he penned it.

I look forward to working with all of you to ensure we continue to uphold our DKE values and traditions while fulfilling the mission of Lafayette College.

In the Bonds of Brotherhood,

Michael De Lisi

Michael De Lisi
President, Rho House Association
delisim@comcast.net
781-234-8485



Dear Brothers,

The financial standing of the DKE house continues to be strong thanks to your continued support and our disciplined financial management. Our conservative investment strategy has enabled us to weather these trying financial times successfully and we are still in a position to move forward towards our next capital improvement project.

Since the last Rho News was published in the fall of 2008 I have continued negotiations with the school on our new lease agreement for the house. The first completed proposal was sent to me on April 9th, and we have begun the process of working through the details. The school's treasurer and I have our eyes set on getting this agreement in place in time to begin capital improvements for the 2009-2010 academic year. I look forward to completing the details of our new arrangement and starting a fundraising drive that will enable us to bring our house to the forefront of fraternity living standards.

While we continue to see solid donations into our capital improvement account with the school, we are still struggling to collect annual dues and operating fund contributions that go into our House Association account. This is the account that funds this mailing, our homecoming festivities, leadership conference fees for the undergraduates, our cook's retirement contributions, and any other events or initiatives put on by the alumni. The fall Rho News listed the brothers in good standing with their contributions to this account as a way of encouraging increased participation. However, I should have emphasized that there are a number of brothers that are invaluable assets to our fraternity that did not make that list because they route their donations exclusively through the school. While those donations to our capital account are sincerely appreciated, our fraternity would benefit greatly if everyone could take the time to mail in their dues once each year. The details on how to pay these dues are contained within this mailing.

Lastly, I would like to thank all those that have reached out to give me feedback and support. I strive to create the best DKE for all brothers, and success in that endeavor requires the participation of the entire brotherhood. As always, I welcome your feedback and suggestions, and thank you in advance for your support of our great fraternity.

In The Bonds,

Peter Carlson '02

**House Association
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Information**

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TBD-

We need a volunteer to maintain our contact database and website. If you are interested, contact one of the

ALUMNI DUES

- 0-5 years since graduation: \$25
- 5-10 years since graduation: \$35
- 10+ years since graduation: \$50

Your dues and donations are the sole source of support for our House Association sponsored events, *The Rho News* and other mailings and announcements, the alumni directory, our website and other association expenses. Please make checks payable to: Rho House Association, and send c/o our Treasurer, Peter Carlson, 20005 Hob Hill Way, Montgomery, MD 20886.

Thank you in advance for your continued support of our great fraternity.

Rho News

Volume 1, No.1

Easton, PA

May, 1916

An Appeal To The Alumnus

By Francis A. March, Jr., Rho '81

Once a D.K.E. always a D.K.E., if a man has the right stuff in him. Fraternity ties last through life. We are "always friends at the heart," we Dekes, who have lived together, studied together, fought together and played together in the little college world, are "all of one, one for all." Oh, the happy days of youth! What golden dreams were ours as we gathered round the fire in the evening and sang the fraternity songs, "a band of brothers in D.K.E."

But an end must come, and we go out into a world that knows not D.K.E.

And we forget.

But what sweeter, cleaner, happier memories can we have than those we associate with the old fraternity life?

D.K.E. today is striving to stir up its alumni to an active interest in the chapter life. We want our alumni to feel that our chapter house is their college home as well as that of the undergraduate. And we want them first of all to join our alumni association.

This movement is a general one throughout the fraternity. And that means that not only the undergraduate will be benefitted by the aid and counsel that his older brother can give him, but that the alumnus, wherever he may be, will find a renewed interest in the fraternity bond among all D.K.E.'s of every chapter, an interest which may make his own life brighter and happier.

Some chapters already have thriving alumni associations. The movement at Rho is still in its infancy. But it will succeed. And it needs you, brother alumnus.

College life at Lafayette is yearly growing more and more complex. The social life is infinitely more varied and absorbing, the athletic interests more elaborate, the musical, dramatic, and literary demands upon the student more insistent. The college is growing, its curriculum is broader, its training more thorough, as the days go by. The house life of the fraternities is a feature of the new Lafayette. Those of us who graduated before Rho of D.K.E., pioneer among Lafayette's fraternities, introduced the chapter house, can hardly realize what a difference that house life makes in the college life of a D.K.E. It is a different world those brothers of ours live in, from that which the founders of the fraternity knew. And it is a better world and a happier world, but to live it means a harder fight. The brothers of today need the help of the brothers who have gone.

Wake up, brothers in D.K.E. of the older day. We gave our best in the olden time, let us give our best today. Perhaps other interests are greater to us now, other ties closer, other ambitions more engrossing. Perhaps we look back on our college days as but a few years of pleasant preparation for what is real in life. But were there any happier years? Any that have left us brighter memories?

The new generation is waiting, and working, and hoping, as we did. And they are now our "Brothers in D.K.E." And they are appealing to us as brothers, "lest we forget."

DKE Mentoring Program

The Rho House Association is kicking off a mentoring program pairing each undergraduate senior with an alumnus. This program will allow alumni who cannot regularly visit campus to remain engaged with both the College and DKE. It will also provide unique insight into the issues facing undergraduates today and an opportunity for you to help DKE undergraduate brothers overcome their challenges.

For the undergraduates, this will offer an unparalleled development opportunity. Our undergraduates will be the only students in the country with access to a prized resource: you, our alumni. This process will necessarily be driven by the undergraduates in that they will set the agenda for topics they want counsel on such as professional development, time management, career planning, or just having as a sounding board for their post-undergraduate plans. By sharing your life experiences, you will help develop a new generation of Dekes.

While we already have some volunteers committed to mentoring, we still need more. The norms for each mentoring relationship will be unique and set jointly by the mentor and mentee. At a minimum, we ask that our mentors be available for contact with their mentee once a month either via phone or e-mail. If you are interested in participating in this exciting new program, which is open to alumni of all ages, please contact Michael De Lisi at delisim@comcast.net or 781.234.8485.



IS YOUR ADDRESS AND CONTACT INFORMATION UP-TO-DATE? ARE YOU MOVING SOON? PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO CONTACT US WITH ANY ADDRESS OR CONTACT CHANGES. WE USE LAFAYETTE'S ALUMNI COMMUNITY INFORMATION TO SEND THE RHO NEWS. IF YOU WANT US TO USE A DIFFERENT ADDRESS, CONTACT ONE OF THE ALUMNI OFFICERS.

YOU CAN CHECK AND UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION ON-LINE AT: WWW.RHODKE.ORG AND BY CONTACTING LAFAYETTE COLLEGE.

Remembering Dr. Robert Anthony Rossi, Class of 1992

Earlier this year, our Brother, Dr. Robert Anthony Rossi, passed away due to leukemia. It is customary when someone dies of cancer to say that they “lost their battle” with the disease as a way of illustrating their perseverance in the face of unbeatable odds. While it is true that Rob fought the disease for at least a year and had some notable victories – including a fine showing at last year’s beer pong tournament and Homecoming, where he led the Lion’s March – I will not use that phrase in this piece because, in my view, Rob lost nothing.

Death is truly a part of life. It will come to us all, either from cancer or from some other mandatory invitation to God’s good graces. In the face of this harsh reality, what ultimately matters is how we live. Rob lived his life to the fullest. After college, he went to medical school and fulfilled his goal of becoming a physician. Rob did not become a doctor for the money or for the impressive letterhead; instead, he was one of those doctors who truly helped people. He left his caring mark on scores of patients, many of whom shared their memories of him when he passed. I will always remember one mother who wrote to Rob’s parents in the funeral guest book that her daughter was inspired to become a doctor because of “Dr. Rob.” Rob was also a Major in the United States Air Force. At his funeral, the Air Force Honor Guard gave Rob a rifle salute and presented his mother with an American flag in recognition of his service.

On top of his accomplishments in life, Rob was truly a wonderful person. We will remember him as a Brother who always had a helping hand, a funny story and an encouraging word for his fellow Dekes. As a result, Rob was a sort of “timeless” Brother who was close friends with Brothers ten years older and ten years younger. Even with all the egos and angst associated with coming of age in a House with 30 other headstrong young men, I can honestly say that I have never heard someone make a negative comment about Rob, and I am sure that I never will.

This is how Rob lived his life. As a result, he accepted and faced death with more grace and honor than many men much older and much sicker than him. I know this because I was fortunate enough to be one of the many Brothers who were able to visit with him during his last week with us. Rob was strong, content and even good humored to the very end. He told us he loved us, thanked us for being there, and then, days later, he was gone.

It seems that the brightest flames burn the quickest. The Brothers from my generation have learned this painful lesson many times over. In recent years, we have lost Joseph Stella (Class of 1994), David DeWolf (Class of 1995) and Joseph Blaines (Class of 1992), and now Rob. Each of these Brothers was unique, and is deserving of their own eulogy, but they all had one thing in common. They were larger than life and did more in their short time with us than most people do in a lifetime. They have also left an indelible mark on their friends and our fraternity. Each of them taught us how to live – a lesson none of us should forget. They also showed us that our Brotherhood and way of life will transcend the boundary between this world and the next – a reminder that we must not take our Bonds for granted, but instead put forth all efforts to nurture a strong and enduring Brotherhood.

In the Bonds,

David Kiefer, Class of 1995

ALUMNI uPDATES

Join us in congratulating William “Billy” Broomall ‘05 for his recent engagement to the beautiful and lovely Jackie Seaman. We wish them the best in all of their future endeavors.

Save the dates! The Summer Beerfest will be on **Saturday, August 15th** at the **Bohemian Hall & Beer Garden** in Astoria, NY. That following **Tuesday, August 18th** will be our Second Annual Delta Kappa Epsilon Golf Outing and Alumni Reception at the **Ballyowen Golf Club** in Hamburg, NJ. Additional information to follow. Non-golfers are encouraged to attend the reception.

Brother Richard Dando '51 is in a nursing home suffering from a stroke. Our thoughts are with him and wish him a speedy recovery.

Submissions: *If you have an alumni update or other submission that you would like included in the next issue, please contact Jason Zomick '02. Jason can be reached via email: Zomick@gmail.com, or telephone: 610-509-6617.*

*Fletcher Thomson and Dave Kiefer came to the House in early May for the Spring installment of the DKE Speaker's Bureau covering legal professions. **If you would be interested in speaking to the undergrads regarding your career and***

THE RHO NEWS

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