



The Rho Chapter Crest

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The Rho News

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Brothers,

We have a lot of exciting news about the Rho Chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon. At Homecoming, we announced the expansion of the Rho House Association with an updated governance model to align with the needs of a 21st century fraternity. We also seek to provide a healthy mix of alumni news, undergraduate news, and general Lafayette Greek Life news in this newsletter and online. Enjoy this edition of the Rho News!

This October, the students hosted an excellent reception prior to the Marquis Founders Dinner. Brothers (Matt) Sheeliegh '50, Kirby '53, Loughlin '53, McCurdy '82, and Jaye '10 were all in attendance in addition to the Treasurer of the College, Mitch Wein. Later that evening we met up with Brothers (Ken) Sheeliegh '51, Scott '59, and Sell '92 at the Marquis Dinner. We hope to organize a DKE photo op next year.

During our annual meeting, we recognized Hudson Cashdan '00, Mark Fedorov '91, and Richard Phillips '98 volunteering to serve on our Investment and Financial Policy Committee. They brought forth the idea of carving out a portion of alumni funds for students to manage, with training and oversight from the committee. This is precisely the type of guidance we hoped for this committee as an example of the value DKE brings as an outside the classroom learning experiences for our students.

Scott Harris '95 agreed to serve as our Scholarship Director. In this role, we charged Scott with ensuring that our students maintain the balance of equal proportions of gentleman, scholar, and jolly good fellow. Rho Dekes know that those who drink deep of youth's mad wine sometimes find it easy to over emphasize the latter. Thankfully, dedicated alumni like Brother Harris help us maintain this balance.

In a late breaking development, John Sheehy '05 recently came on board to oversee Recruitment and Robert Schiller '06 came on board to run the Business Management for the Rho House Association. These are both new positions. Christian Garrilli '09 is stepping down as the Editor of the Rho News after this issue. I thank Christian for his service. This means the most notable position we need to fill is now Rho News Editor. See page 4 for a descriptions of other vacancies we need alumni to fill. Please contact Michael De Lisi at delisim@comcast.net if you would like to volunteer.

The DKE Speaker's Bureau is scheduled for another strong spring semester. Fletcher Thomson '98 already spoke about legal topics of interest. Dan Huffenus '86 plans to speak to the Rho Chapter about CMBS/Real Estate Capital Markets. Richard Phillips '98 is kicking off a webinar program providing private equity industry training for students and young alumni to enter the workforce.

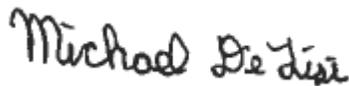
DKE students created a partnership with Lafayette's Academic Tutoring and Training Information Center that serves as the model for the Greek community on campus today. We required all new brothers to attend a Time Management seminar.

Brother Harris will ensure that any brothers at risk of underperforming academically will receive peer tutor and study skill sessions. It is vital that every Deke continues to fulfill their academic potential as part of their commitment to our fraternity.

Will Forbes '96 is working to establish an announcement list via rhodke.org. We will pre-populate the list with all e-mails we have on file. Subscribers will be asked to confirm they want to receive e-mails from the Rho House Association. We plan to use this list to get more frequent DKE news blasts to our alumni, and to facilitate planning of events like the one the '86 Dekes planned in Washington, DC this Spring.

After a successful trial run last year, I invite you all to the DKE House for Reunion on June 1-3. Although Lafayette only invites alumni back to campus every 5 years, the DKE House (by popular demand) is open to alumni of any graduation year during reunion. I look forward to seeing everyone at reunion this June 1-3. Look for the DKE Open House on Saturday in the official schedule of events during reunion.

In the bonds,



Michael De Lisi '03

"Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs even though checkered by failure, than to rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy nor suffer much because they live in the gray twilight that knows neither victory nor defeat"

- Brother Theodore Roosevelt, Alpha/Harvard '80

ALUMNI DONATIONS

DUES & OPERATING ACCOUNT CONTRIBUTIONS

Sign up for automatic dues payments with the NEW PayPal subscription service!

<http://www.rhodke.org/rhodke-dues.php>

- 0-4 years since graduation: \$25
- 5-9 years since graduation: \$35
- 10+ years since graduation: \$50

Your dues and donations are the sole source of support for *The Rho News* and other mailings and announcements, house property insurance, philanthropy, our website, House Association sponsored events, and other administrative expenses.

Please make checks payable to: Rho House Association, and send c/o our Treasurer, Peter Carlson, 3026 Wayne Road, Falls Church, VA 22042

DKE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT ACCOUNT

Donations to our capital improvement account with Lafayette College are tax deductible and count towards the Marquis Society. These funds are used to purchase capital for our chapter house such as the dining room tables and refrigerator purchased in the last few years. We plan to replace common area furniture in the near future.

To contribute to this account, when donating to Lafayette College, write "For DKE" on the memo line of the check, or in the comments box of the online giving form. This will route your donation to our capital improvement account. Please inform our Treasurer, Peter Carlson, so he can confirm it posts to our account.

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

THE TREASURER'S REPORT

Dear Brothers,

In the time since the last Rho News our financial position has continued to grow stronger thanks to generous donations and hard work on the part of alumni and undergraduate officers. Prior to the fall semester we held the first semi-annual DKE Leadership Conference to educate the undergraduate brothers on the critical issues facing them. One of these was financial management. We setup a formal process for the undergraduates to budget for annual expenses and update the forecast weekly throughout the year. This process has successfully prevented any cost overruns and provided unprecedented insight into the financial operations of our chapter house. In addition, we have received generous donations into our capital improvement account with the College and have not had any unexpected surprises.

Before homecoming the Rho House Association stood up the first Alumni Committee: Investment and Financial Policy. I would like to thank the brothers that agreed to sit on that committee with me: Mark Federov '91, Rich Phillips '98 and Hudson Cashdan '00. We have setup our investment policy to guide how we manage the funds in the Rho House Association account to ensure proper management, oversight and accountability.

There is one aspect of our financials that I have not been able to improve upon during my tenure: dues payments and operating fund contributions to our Rho House Association account. In the past 5 years we have averaged 5% participation from alumni brothers. With participation this low, we lose a small amount of money each year just paying for our fixed costs: Rho News mailings, our website, and insurance on fraternity owned property in the chapter house. Alumni officers still pay for DKE expenses out of pocket, and when the undergraduates achieve their academic incentive, that contributes further to our annual deficit. We would love to use these funds to improve the experience for undergraduate brothers in the house, and provide a better homecoming experience for all.

I challenge all brothers to take the time to sign up for our dues subscription through paypal or write a small check to help ensure the solvency of this account. You can find details on how you can make these contributions on page 2 of this newsletter and as well as the insert card.

As always, I welcome any thoughts and feedback and am happy to address any questions or concerns you may have. Please contact me using the information contained herein.

In the Bonds,

Peter Carlson '02

HELP WANTED

Rho News Editor– Collect inputs from officers, revise articles, maintain Publisher template, and submit Rho News to print shop

Communications Director– Manages communication for the alumni. Advises undergrads on PR issues

Director of Civic Engagement– Organizes the alumni for philanthropy and service events. Provides continuity to students in their civic engagement practices. Sets up causes that align with DKE values and membership.

Membership Development– Supports ongoing membership development such as leadership conferences, time management skills, business etiquette, etc.

Graduates from 2009-2011: We're collecting transcripts from the classes of '09 through our current undergrads to understand how alumni can best assist with undergraduate grades. We'd like your help. If you have not been in touch with John Crerand '09, please email him at jcrerand@gmail.com to get started.

CONFERENCE SHARPENS LEADERSHIP PROWESS

by Andrew O'Brien '13 and Daniel Toutoungi '13

Over the Winter Interim, Andrew O'Brien '13, Chapter President, and Daniel Toutoungi '13, Chapter Treasurer, attended a three day conference in Indiana called the Jon Williamson Futures Quest. This symposium is organized by the North-American Interfraternity Conference (NIC) who provides leadership training to fraternity men from all across the country. The program focuses on getting back to the basics by developing key core values that when put together make for a great fraternity. This was accomplished by packing each day to the brim with interactive learning sessions that were designed to keep every fraternity leader on their toes. The Deke attendees personally grew by developing their communication skills, identifying their personal strengths and weaknesses, making a commitment to fraternal ideals, and exploring ways to overcome the various challenges that may lie ahead. In addition to these workshops Deke brothers were each paired with a mentor, who was an experienced fraternity leader and offered our brothers guidance from personal experiences throughout the process.

NIC President, Peter Smithhisler (pictured below), also took a keen liking to our attendees and was well aware of the ongoing situation with Lafayette College's Greek Life. Peter worked closely with the Deke boys who attended and gave them valuable information about how to best deal with our continuing dialogue with the school. As we all know, DKE was built upon the core principals of brotherhood, campus involvement, facilitating a wider outlook, social poise, leadership and business training. When combined these values can create a well rounded individual that is ready for whatever life throws their way. Andrew and Daniel truly treasured their time spent at the conference and both eagerly look forward to implementing these experiences within DKE and the larger Lafayette community.



Rho Dekes Andrew O'Brien '13 (left) and Daniel Toutoungi '13(right) pose with the North American Interfraternity Conference President & CEO, Peter Smithhisler (center) during Futures Quest in January 2012.

STUDENT NEWS

by John Burke '14

With the fall semester behind us, and spring on the horizon the undergraduates of the Rho chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon are as enthused and optimistic as ever. Our brotherhood, at the undergraduate level, is up to an astounding fifty-two active members. In keeping with the tradition of excellence that Rho Dekes seek to embody and perpetuate, the last few months have brought numerous accolades recognizing brother's successes in academics, athletics and on campus leadership.

As the fall semester came to a close and grades were finalized Rho Dekes did their best to uphold the "scholar" aspect of "Gentleman, Scholar and jolly good fellow." Specifically, a quarter of our members were named to the Deans List (3.6 GPA or above), with Brother Houldin '12 earning a 4.0. Furthermore, Brother Morel returned from England after a semester abroad where he interned at the British Parliament. This semester seven brothers have elected to study abroad throughout Europe, with one brother traveling to New Zealand.

In addition to academic achievements the Rho Dekes have several athletic standouts. Currently there are four brothers participating in varsity athletics in track, swimming and fencing. In particular, Brother Eckelmann '13 has been named the Captain of the Lafayette Fencing team for the 2012-2013 season. Brother Leonard '14 has been named All Patriot League Second Team in track for his performance in the 4 by 400 meter relay.

The 2011-2012 school year will also mark another successful year of philanthropy and service for Rho Dekes. Coming this April will be the 4th Annual Jeremy Saxe Memorial Basketball Tournament. This tournament, established in 2009, has served as a tribute to a deceased brother, as well as a fundraiser for the charity named in his honor which has raised over \$500,000. With last year's tournament being such a success, expectations for this year will be even higher.

For more information about current undergraduates and a regularly updated news blog feel free to browse our website at <http://sites.lafayette.edu/dke/>, which is conveniently linked from the alumni site www.rhodke.org.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE

Dekes made the dean's list (semester GPA above 3.6):

Alpert, Matthew R. 2012
 Baldwin, Gregory T. 2012
 Gordon, Scott W. 2012
 Houldin, Joseph J. 2012
 Nguyen, Lenny X. 2013
 O'Brien, Andrew J. 2013
 Sainsbury, Michael J. 2012
 Schwartz, Dashiell S. 2013
 Stem, William R. 2012
 Szklanny, Adam J. 2013

Deke Scholars / Honor Societies

Gregory Baldwin, Marquis Scholar
 Andrew O'Brien, Marquis Scholar
 Jared Piette, Trustee Scholar

Michael Rupolo, Jeffrey B. Havens Memorial Scholar
 Dashiell Schwartz, Pi Mu Epsilon Honor Society
 William Stern, Trustee Scholar, Trustee Grant
 Andrew Uzenoff, Omicron Delta Epsilon Honor Society
 Sagar Vengurlekar – Member of Neuroscience Society

Deke Campus Leaders

Adam Block, Secretary of Sports Business Management Club, Member of Investment Club
 Mike Kelley, Sports editor for *The Lafayette*
 Lenny Nguyen, Chemistry Tutor
 Jared Piette, Exec Board Member of the Lafayette Activities Forum, Student Representative to the Student Conduct Committee, Service/Philanthropy Chair of the IFC
 Dashiell Schwartz, Math Tutor

Deke Athletes

Billy Leonard, Varsity track and field
 Chris Pregler, Varsity track and field
 David Eckelmann, Varsity Fencing

Deke Placement

Sagar Vengurlekar law school acceptances: American, Temple, Loyola, Kansas, UCSD, Earle Mack, Villanova
 Greg Baldwin medical school acceptances: University of Maryland, Jefferson.
 Mike Rupolo: Texas Instruments
 Joseph Houldin: Bloomberg LP in NYC
 Adam Block: Octagon Sports Marketing Intern

ALUMNI EVENTS

The DKE alumni planned several events this spring. Brother Glock '86 rallied the Rho Dekes from '86 (plus or minus a few graduation years) for the 3rd annual Rho '86 summer outing. The event will have taken place by the time this reaches the Rho News goes to press. The event is between May 4th and 5th in the Nation's capital of Washington D.C. They are planning on seeing the Phillies play the Nationals on the 5th at 1:05, visiting the cultural sights of the city, and a social outing on Saturday night. E-mail pglock@avaya.com for more information.

Additionally, on April 14th at 2:00pm, the Class of 2009 and current undergraduates ran the 4th Annual Jeremy Saxe Memorial Basketball Tournament in the Kirby Sports Complex. Jeremy, an extremely bright, gifted, and selfless individual, passed away in the fall of 2008 from an extremely rare and undiagnosed heart condition: hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. The RHO class of 09 cordially invited all brothers to participate via playing in the tournament, donating, or spreading word of the event. The Jeremy Saxe Foundation is a 501c3 organization. Please contact Chris McConnell at cmccconnell5053@gmail.com to learn more on charity's mission of promoting education in the developing world, as well as to learn about how to participate in or donate to future events.

Don't forget to regularly check our website www.rhodke.org for regular updates on alumni news and updates on our undergraduate classes. While you are there, make sure to sign up to receive e-mail updates on everything DKE RHO.

CAMPUS LIFE

Following October's Board of Trustees meeting, the Board announced Greek Life must meet four objectives by 2014:

- Fraternities and sororities must provide open access and engagement opportunities to all students at Lafayette (non-discriminatory in selection of members).
- Fraternities and sororities must facilitate demonstrated learning opportunities for students and provide benefits to the College as a whole.
- The academic performance of students affiliated with fraternities and sororities must be comparable to the student body as a whole.
- The disciplinary profile of members of fraternities and sororities, as well as the individual organizations, must be comparable to the student body as a whole and other student organizations.

The Board also directed the administration to create the Implementation and Assessment Group on Greek Life (IAGGL, pronounced eagle) to both assess Greek Life's progress towards achieving these four objectives and to implement the previous Greek Life Working Group's recommendations that the Board chose to implement.

The Board modeled these objectives after the advice of the Faculty Academic Policy Committee, which is a closed faculty committee that provided advice to President Weiss two days prior to the October Board meeting. Our leadership has since voiced concerns about FAP similarly inserting themselves after IAGGL's work, subverting IAGGL.

IAGGL's metrics are now available for comment under <http://sites.lafayette.edu/greek-life-wg/progress-reports/>

DKE's leadership at the local and international levels have taken a hands on approach to ensure the Rho Chapter continues our tradition of excellence at Lafayette College. We work with the appropriate members of the administration, Alumni Association, and Board of Trustees to resolve our concerns. Thanks to President Weiss' recently announced changes to realign policy and practices for *uniform enforcement* of alcohol patrols across the entire College, our students can and will meet the expectations of the Board of Trustees on the objective of a comparable disciplinary profile.

We are still working out the norms for communication and inclusion of alumni in shaping the Campus Life experience for students at Lafayette College under the new VP of Campus Life and Senior Diversity Officer. It is still critical to have strong involvement across all age groups for a strong Rho Chapter. Our leadership welcomes all input from our alumni. In addition, please submit your comments about the IAGGL metrics at the link above.

Please contact Michael De Lisi at delisim@comcast.net or 781.234.8485 with any questions or concerns.