



*The Rho Chapter Crest*

## *The Rho News*

### **THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Dear Brothers,

As I write to you this Fall, I am very happy to report that the state of the Rho House Association has strengthened since our last newsletter. We have gotten very positive feedback on our long-term plan for significant capital improvements to the House from the Lafayette College Administration. They have also agreed to negotiate a new lease with us—a major positive development. These significant changes mark a tectonic shift in the way we run our finances and manage our organization. These changes will help us bring the House up to the standard of other living facilities on campus with the school's assistance. We are pleased with this progress and excited at its potential. Our undergraduate brothers continue to make a positive contribution to the Lafayette Community, and I am happy to report that they remain among the school's leaders in terms of GPA, campus involvement, and philanthropy. We hope newsletters like this one keep you informed on the happenings in the House Association and at Lafayette more generally. In recent months, we have made significant progress and are now better equipped to face the challenges to our continued success on campus than before. As I am sure you are aware, this year's Homecoming is on September 27<sup>th</sup> 2008. Within this newsletter you will find details of what we have planned. Hope to see you there.

Our current lease has been in place since 1972. It has been quite restrictive and has caused us operational and budgetary problems for decades. I am pleased to say that negotiations with the school have yielded us a new arrangement and a new lease which will soon be drafted and signed. These changes will give us more flexibility, streamline our budget, and make the school directly responsible for the House's operational costs. Peter Carlson '02 spearheaded our efforts on this initiative, and is currently negotiating the details of the new lease with the College's Treasurer with the aid of his fellow officers. I will allow him to elaborate further on these developments in his report found in this newsletter.

Our Undergraduate Brothers continue to do their part by keeping on track with their Compass responsibilities. "Compass" is an annual report submitted to Student Life which is used to evaluate each living group's contribution and value to the Lafayette Community. We were one of only two fraternities to receive an "Excellent" rating last year. We are making very good progress on our Compass efforts and are on pace to match last year's outstanding results for this year as well. Our active members recently hosted an alumni golf tournament held in Hamburg, NJ which was a great success. Due to this success, they have already begun to plan another tournament for next year. Rho has again won accolades from DKE International. Some of our actives have just returned from the annual DKE Convention, where I am proud to tell you Rho received 1<sup>st</sup> place in Chapter Improvement and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Alumni Relations. Please join me in congratulating our undergraduates as their efforts engender our continued support and encouragement. I urge them to continue the good work and maintain this positive momentum.

In my last report, I introduced you to one of our officers, Mike De Lisi '03. Over the past few years, he has contributed greatly to our organization. With the aid of our undergradu-

ates, he steered our Chapter through the newly formed Compass process with tremendous success. His efforts helped lead us to become one of the first fraternities to achieve an "Excellent" rating. Additionally, he has pioneered the DKE Speaker's Bureau program where alumni come back to the House to speak on their professions. The next such event will focus on the legal profession later this fall, organized by Fletcher Thomson '98.

Mike has been an indispensable part of our team and a great resource to all of us. Together with his other officers, he helped formulate our "Vision for the Future of DKE at Lafayette," a comprehensive plan to renovate, update, and reinvigorate our presence on campus. To give a little brief background, we submitted this plan to Lafayette back in May, and I am happy to say it was well received. They share our desire to substantially improve the House's structure, functionality, environmental sustainability, and aesthetics. I have slowly been transitioning responsibilities to Mike over the past months, and I feel confident he is ready to now take the reins himself. It is for these reasons that I strongly submit to the Brotherhood that he succeed me as the next President of the Rho House Association of Delta Kappa Epsilon. I plan to put his name into nomination at the meeting and humbly ask for your affirmation of this choice.

It was a privilege and a pleasure to serve Delta Kappa Epsilon as President of the Rho House Association. During my time in office, the campus continued to be in a state of flux and many challenges to our presence on campus emerged. DKE stayed, however, flexible and responsive. Although we face serious challenges, we continue to not only be relevant, but to be a model of a successful Greek organization on campus. This success would not have been possible if not for your support and the great officers with which I have had the privilege to work. I am confident in our future because of the quality and commitment of those involved in the House Association. My predecessor, Sandy Balkin, left us an organization in very good shape. My fellow officers and I continued on his progress and worked to live up to the standard he set. Although faced with different challenges and circumstances, we continued to move the House Association forward. Now it is time for me to pass the baton to a group of seasoned, experienced, and committed individuals in whom I have tremendous confidence.

Although this is my last newsletter as President, I hope to continue to be involved and support the Rho House Association as so many of you have and continue to do. I thank you for your support over my tenure. I appreciate your input and advice. I am grateful for your suggestions and counsel, both when solicited and when not. I am particularly grateful to the old guard for showing us a great example and giving us the standard that we worked hard to emulate. I ask that you continue to support this Association because I assure you the best is yet to come.

ITB,

*Richard P. Phillips*

President, Rho House Association  
202-286-2400  
[rphillips2020@yahoo.com](mailto:rphillips2020@yahoo.com)

Arnold, Edward  
Bielamowicz, Stephen  
Carlson, Peter  
Carreno, Daniel  
DeLisi, Michael  
Diaz-Gonzalez, Victor  
Engesser, Donald  
Harvey, William  
Kling, Neil  
Reinking, Timothy  
Lambert, Eli  
Lundquist, Robert  
Magee, W.  
McCurdy, Paul  
Mitchell, Walter  
Moller, Richard

### *Brothers In Good Standing*



*Don't see your name? Get your dues in now for 2008-2009 for the next Rho News!*

Moore, Daniel  
Nicholas David  
Pasman, James  
Pew, J.  
Phillips, Richard  
Raywood, James  
Reinking, Timothy  
Rothman, Robert  
Ryan, Richard  
Scioscia, Stephen  
Sheehy, John  
Sheeleigh, Kenneth  
Smith, J.  
Stauffer, Matthew  
Suffredini, Mark  
Swanson, H  
Zomick, Jason

Dear Brothers,

This year promises to be the beginning of a new and improved financial relationship between Lafayette and our fraternity. We are on the brink of the first new lease agreement since 1972 which will enable our house to maintain a much higher standard of living. This positive momentum was countered by a significant financial loss due to all time high energy prices.

I recently had the opportunity to walk through our house with Lafayette's new treasurer, new head of fraternities and sororities, and long standing head of plant operations. The purpose was to evaluate the need for capital improvements, and it was clear to all that the house needs significant investment to match the living standards present in Lafayette's other residence halls. All three school representatives expressed their gratitude for our renewed desire to improve the house, and are genuinely interested in a new model that will allow for a better place to live for our undergraduate brothers. I am optimistic that the new blood on the side of the administration will allow for such a positive change.

To achieve this improved relationship we are beginning negotiations on a new lease agreement. The primary goals are: to give Lafayette an assurance that any investment they make in the house will be protected; to establish a lease that more clearly outlines which party is responsible for what expense; and to ensure that our house is only financially responsible for unusual wear and tear and discretionary improvements. A new financial agreement will be in place for this school year so that we no longer bear the brunt of escalating energy costs. It is less clear when we will finalize a completely new lease agreement, but once completed, it should pave the way for significant house improvements.

During homecoming 2007 there was a call for specific capital improvement initiatives and associated fund raising campaigns. These calls have been heard, and once we have a clear understanding of how these initiatives will be tied into our new lease agreement with the school, we are ready to kick off such a campaign. We have already prepared and submitted a plan to the school for the replacement of all windows in the house which falls in line with the school's "going green" initiatives outlined in their latest strategic plan.

We have made significant progress in establishing a new financial model for our fraternity since our budget with the school was cut in half. But we are not out of the woods yet as we are steadily depleting our savings. We need to continue to improve our participation levels which currently stand at only 5% for dues and 30% for donations to Lafayette - For DKE. I thank you in advance for your generosity, and welcome any of your comments or questions.

In The Bonds,

Peter Carlson '02

### House Association Officer Contact Information

**President:**  
**Richard Phillips**  
Rphil-  
lips2020@yahoo.com  
202-286-2400

**Vice-President:**  
**Dan Carreno**  
carreno@gmail.com  
484-252-1615

**Treasurer:**  
**Peter Carlson:**  
phhcarl-  
son@gmail.com  
240-401-3929

**Social Chair/  
Communications:**  
**Jason Zomick**  
zomick@gmail.com  
610-509-6617

**Communications  
Director:**  
**Michael DeLisi**  
delisim@comcast.net  
781-234-8485

## 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.

## Homecoming September 27th

Homecoming is Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup> this year. In addition to being early in the fall this year, it's a night game against Penn, to be played under the new lights at Fisher Stadium. As a result, our schedule of events for this year is slightly different.

### Saturday

Morning Breakfast

### **Noon Annual Brothers Meeting**

1-3 PM Grilling & BBQ Lunch

3-6 PM Cocktails in the main bar room

6 PM Kickoff @ Fisher Field

Because Homecoming is so early this year, we are still on social probation from the end of spring semester. We petitioned for and received special dispensation to allow alcohol in the house during Homecoming. We were given the choice between hosting a bar room event Friday or Saturday and we opted for Saturday rather than Friday night. Because of the change in schedule, we will be serving lunch following the brothers meeting and throughout the tailgate. We will host cocktails in the bar room prior to the game.

Additionally, the school is again attempting to limit parking on March Field. We will be receiving 30 parking passes for the field. We will be distributing the passes to those who want to park on the Field that weekend. The school also plans to cordon off a section of the field for Kappa, Phi Psi and ourselves. We look forward to taking back March Field for DKE!

For lodging, I booked 10 non-smoking rooms with two double beds for Dekes at the Quality Inn (formerly Best Western) at 3rd Street at a rate of \$59.99 per night. Wawa is right across the street. If you would like one of the rooms, call the Quality Inn at 610.253.9131 and request one of the rooms reserved under the name Michael De Lisi. I'm sure they could accommodate you if you want to switch to a queen size instead of two double beds. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 781.234.8485 or [delisim@comcast.net](mailto:delisim@comcast.net)

We look forward to seeing you back at the DKE House!

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

**THE UNDERGRADS REDESIGNED OUR WEBSITE AND ENCOURAGE YOU YOU TO VISIT FOR MORE NEWS AND INFORMATION AT WWW.LAFAYETTE.EDU/~DKE**

Dear Brothers,

Above all I would like to make sure everyone is aware what an impressive job Peter Carlson has done as our Treasurer. We have been presented with a great opportunity in a new Head of Business Development at Lafayette and Peter has really gone above and beyond his duties in taking advantage of that opportunity in order to rework the symbiotic relationship that exists between the DKE and the school.

As Peter and the rest of the Alumni Association are working hard with Lafayette's administration in order to secure funding for our next capital improvement project, I wanted to just take a small part of the Rho News to reflect on a recent visit I had to Lafayette's campus and comment on some of the truths that have become glaringly evident to me.

I think few of us can argue that we all enjoyed a beautiful setting at Lafayette during our stay there and in the passing years the surroundings have only continued to improve. It is obvious the school has invested thoroughly across the campus from the renovated library, to the new football field, to new housing structures for students. Lafayette continues to acquire real estate at the base of College Hill, extending its influence into downtown Easton, and acting as a catalyst for the gentrification of the area.

As I walked the campus appreciating the investments and improvements, I was somewhat shocked from time to time as I stumbled onto several structures that apparently exist in a vacuum where the Lafayette chooses not to continue the restoration effort: the fraternity houses. With the exception of two houses that Lafayette has no ownership in, the fraternity houses on campus exhibited a lack in quality that seems unjustified at best. The DKE House is by no means on the brink of collapse but it was apparent the same level of improvement that has reached many other parts of the campus has passed us by despite Lafayette's equity stake in the structure itself.

Why would some of the most historic buildings on campus be allowed to approach dilapidation? DKE and the other fraternities on campus contribute to the aesthetics of the campus, the culture that has thrived there, and Lafayette's ability to attract the highest quality of students. I can promise you that we as an alumni association are dedicated to making the DKE House the most impressive building it can be, but we will need the partnership of the school in order to accomplish our goals.

I conclude, by saying that I am confident that the new members of the administration will understand the inherent value of our presence on campus. In years to come I am sure we will see an improved DKE House on campus as a result of our partnership with Lafayette that will benefit both the school and our brothers alike, and as always, the help and input from our alumni is not only appreciated but necessary to realize that goal.

In The Bonds,

Dan Carreno '04



## **ALUMNI events**

On August 12<sup>th</sup> 2008, the Brothers hosted the first annual Rho Chapter Golf Outing at the Ballyowen Golf Club in Hamburg, New Jersey. All who attended, to golf or just to help out and enjoy a great dinner, had a great time and look forward to participating again next year. Some alumni present at the event included Kenneth Sheeleigh, class of '51 and Robert Hummel, class of '06. The winner of the best overall golfer, Spencer Longer, finished on par, with Ken Sheeleigh coming in second. Winners received 2 free golf passes to Ballyowen and Wild Turkey, respectively.

Rated the #1 Public Golf Course in New Jersey by Golfweek, PubLinks, Zagat, New Jersey Monthly, NJ Golf, and The Jersey Golfer -- and 15th among the 50 Most Popular Courses in the US by Zagat -- Ballyowen has received outstanding critical acclaim since opening in June 1998. We plan on having the outing the same week next year. If interested please contact Michael Bellantoni at bellantm@lafayette.edu for any information regarding the outing. We look forward to seeing you next year!

-Michael Bellantoni '10

\*\*\*\*\*

**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](mailto:Zomick@gmail.com), or telephone: 610-509-6617.*

*If you would be interested in speaking to the undergrads regarding your career and life after Lafayette for our DKE Speaker's Bureau please contact Michael DeLisi '03 via email: [delisimi@comcast.net](mailto:delisimi@comcast.net), or telephone: 781-234-8485.*

## **THE RHO NEWS**

**Lafayette College  
Delta Kappa Epsilon  
Farinon Box 9449  
Easton, PA 18042**

