



The Rho Chapter Crest

The Rho News

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Brothers,

I am pleased to report that this fall we had **23 new members** accept bids, which amounted to a 72% acceptance rate. We have the largest incoming class this year and the second highest acceptance rate. Our undergraduate membership continues to thrive on campus despite the uncertain times for the rest of campus.

To strengthen the bonds between undergraduates and alumni, we are kicking off the mentoring program pairing seniors with alumni. The mentors will guide the undergraduates through their transition to life after graduation. See page 2 for profiles of some of our prestigious alumni serving as mentors this year. We plan to publish additional information on the mentors and mentees in future editions.

While most communication between mentors and mentees will be via phone or e-mail, hopefully they will meet in person at **Homecoming**, which is **Saturday, October 24th** this year. As usual, we will have our annual brothers meeting at noon in the DKE House. The game vs. Fordham begins at 1PM so expect the usual breakfast and tailgating on March Field. We are still on probation and no alcohol is permitted in the house. As a result, we will not be hosting Oktoberfest on Friday night. Instead, our alumni are welcome at Mothers Bar & Grill (just off the circle) for Friday night. The undergraduates agreed to provide transportation for alumni from the DKE House or to local accommodations. Also, attendees of the **Marquis Founders' reception** and dinner Friday are invited to the DKE House beforehand for a reception and to meet the undergraduates.

Last issue I mentioned Phi Gamma Delta (FIJI) recently had their charter revoked. Their appeals to President Weiss and the Trustees were unsuccessful. We avoided this fate last year thanks to a strategy of partnership with the college, alumni support and new undergraduate leadership. I'd like to thank everyone who helped us through a difficult year.

Special points of interest:

- New Members
- Homecoming October 24th
- Diversity at Lafayette
- Please visit our website www.rhodke.org to view historic DKE images from the college archives
- DKE Mentoring Profiles
- Brothers in DKE

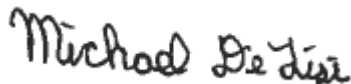
Although alcohol continues to be the preeminent challenge for all undergraduates, diversity is quickly becoming a central issue for the College, which Lafayette highlighted in the summer Alumni News. With the hiring of a new Chief Diversity Officer (CDO) and recent statements by the Board of Trustees, we expect diversity to continue to be a central theme in Lafayette's Strategic Plan and mission. Fortunately, we are ahead of the campus on this front as well. As we remember in the poem "Brothers in DKE" (see page 4) about two Dekes who met upon a southern battlefield in the civil war, our fraternity has a strong history of uniting men across unlikely lines. Rho continues this tradition, bringing together men of differing ethnicities, socioeconomic backgrounds, and interests.

In response to a section in the article on the impact fraternities and sororities have on diversity at Lafayette, I sent a letter to President Weiss describing my thoughts, vision, and challenging the evident cognitive bias. I received a thoughtful response acknowledging the shortcomings of the article, welcoming my ideas, and a suggestion to work with the new

CDO. We will continue to actively engage the administration to remain leaders on campus.

I'm pleased to announce that our Treasurer, **Peter Carlson '02**, is in the final stages of negotiation with the College to re-structure our lease. Please see his piece on page 3 for more details. **Salvatore Caiazzo '03**, who stepped in as Vice President for **Dan Carreno '04** earlier this year, has continued to be the House Association's local presence on campus as well as our representative on AISB. I'd like to thank Dan for his efforts over the past several years. I'd also like to welcome aboard **Brian Schranz '02** who stepped up to maintain the technical side of the website. **Jason Zomick '02** remains the Communications Chair and **Marshall Massey '07** will continue his work on COMPASS. Through the efforts of these officers and the work of other committed alumni, DKE is well positioned for the future.

In the Bonds of Brotherhood,



Michael De Lisi
President, Rho House Association

DKE MENTORS

Mark Suffredini "Suff" '93 is the Assistant Branch Manager of Morgan Stanley Smith Barney's Boston office. He began his career with predecessor firm Shearson Lehman Brothers in June of 1993 as an apprentice and a Financial Advisor trainee in June of 1994. He spent the next decade building a wealth management practice servicing high net worth families.

In December 2004, Mark was promoted to Assistant Branch Manager of the firm's Boston office. His responsibilities include attracting financial advisors from competitor firms, helping existing financial advisors to grow their businesses, and achieving firm goals and objectives. Mark has held various leadership roles within the Rho House Association and Lafayette College Alumni Association since his graduation.

Zilla '95 (BS EE, 3.98, Slurpee) is a researcher at Microsoft, where he works on coming up with new technologies for online advertising and recommender systems. He completed a PhD at Johns Hopkins University in 2001, on statistical methods for speech recognition. He lives in Seattle with his wife. In his spare time, he enjoys food, drink, and mountains.

James Spadaccia '02 graduated from Lafayette College with a B.A. in Engineering, and received his Master's degree in International Development from American University's School of International Service in 2008. James has worked for several large general contractors in New York City and Washington, D.C. such as Turner Construction and Hill International, Inc. Some of the projects he has worked on in the past include the Modernization of the United States Supreme Court Building, FDIC Arlington Square, and the National Defense University at Ft. McNair. In September, James will start work with Skanska USA on the United Nations Capital Master plan, a five-year renovation of the entire United Nations Headquarters facilities in Manhattan.

ALUMNI UPDATES

Let's congratulate **Matt Perez '94** on the birth of his son, Matthew, weighing in at 8 pounds 11 ounces. Matt also passed his oral board exam for ophthalmology and is fully board certified.

Thomas Neff '59 was recently featured in the *Wall Street Journal*. See www.rhodke.org for a link to the online WSJ article.

On August 18th 2009, the Brothers hosted the second annual **Rho Chapter Golf Outing** at the Ballyowen Golf Club in Hamburg, New Jersey. Some alumni present at the event included the **Matt & Ken Sheeleigh ('50 and '51)** and **Harry Bockus '50**. Additionally, young alumni **Joseph Nam**, **Ross Burlingame** and **Nick Graham** made a great addition to the event. The winner of the best overall golfer was Kenneth Sheeleigh. Both the overall winner and runners up received free passes to a variety of Crystal Spring golf resorts. Contact **Michael Bellantoni '10** for information on the tourney.

If you have any updates for the next Rho News, please send them to zomick@gmail.com

Dear Brothers,

Negotiations on the new lease with the school are progressing steadily and we expect it to be in effect for the spring of 2010. This agreement sets the stage for major capital improvements to the house and is the first step towards bringing the DKE house up to the standards of other living options on campus. It is my belief that this agreement, coupled with the other initiatives pushed by the House Association, will allow DKE to thrive on campus and avoid the pitfalls that caused other fraternities to falter. I look forward to announcing the completion of these negotiations in the next Rho News and providing additional details.

In the last edition of the Rho News I spoke about the low participation rate for paying annual dues. In an effort to improve this deficiency we have setup an online subscription service through PayPal where you can sign up for your dues to be paid automatically every year, along with any sinking fund contribution you wish to make. This service even takes your graduation year into account to determine the proper dues to pay each year. Even if you traditionally pay your dues via check I encourage you to sign up for this new service to ensure your participation every year. I would like to send a big thanks to Brian Schranz '02 for his substantial efforts to make this idea a reality. Thanks also go to Scott Harris '95 for stimulating this idea. See the dues section below for details on how to sign up or just follow the links at our website: www.rhodke.org.

There are a number of initiatives that we would like to pursue which need alumni sponsors for funding. One such initiative that is particularly relevant as we strive to improve the standing of DKE undergraduates on campus is a program of rewards for academic achievement. DKE is the only fraternity on campus without any type of reward for GPA and instituting such a program would fit perfectly into our long term strategic plan (yes, we have one) and serve as another reminder to the administration that we are a society that benefits our members and the campus at large. The incentives of other fraternities vary widely and we're all aware of how a small donation from alumni can be a large incentive to an undergraduate. If anyone is interested in sponsoring such a program please contact me using the information listed in this newsletter and we can discuss how this may be structured.

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

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ALUMNI DUES

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 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, 3026 Wayne Road, Falls Church, VA 22042

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

BROTHERS IN D K E**JOHN CLAIRE MINOT, THETA 1896**

Upon a southern battle-field the twilight shadows fall;
 The clash and roar are ended, and the evening bugles call.
 The wearied hosts are resting where the ground is stained with red,
 And o'er the plain between them lie the wounded and the dead.

And out upon the sodden field, where the armies fought all day,
 There came a group of soldiers who wore the rebel gray.
 But peaceful was their mission upon the darkened plain:
 They came to save their wounded and lay at rest the slain.
 And tenderly their hands performed the work they had to do,

And one among them paused beside a wounded boy in blue,
 A Northern lad, with curly hair and eyes of softest brown,
 Whose coat of blue was red with blood that trickled slowly down.

A bullet hole was in his breast, and there alone he lay
 At night upon the battle-field, and moaned his life away.
 The rebel paused beside him, and in the lantern's light
 He saw upon the soldier's breast a fair familiar sight.
 It was the pin of *D K E*, the diamond, stars and scroll,
 The emblem of a brotherhood that bound them soul to soul.
 He raised his hand and quickly tore his coat of gray apart,
 And showed the wounded soldier a Deke pin o'er his heart.

Then close beside the Yankee dropped the rebel to his knee,
 And their hands were clasped together in the grip of *D K E*.
 "I'm from Theta," said the Yankee, and he tried to raise his head;
 "I'm from Psi, in Alabama," were the words the rebel said.
 "Brothers from the heart forever" – nothing more was left to say,
 Though one was clad in Northern blue and one in Southern gray.

But the Northern lad was dying; his voice was faint at best
 As he murmured out his messages to "mother and the rest."
 And as the rebel soothed him, with his head upon his knee,
 He heard him whisper "Bowdoin," and "Dear old *D K E*."
 And he bandaged up the bosom that was torn by rebel shot;
 And bathed the brow with water where the fever fires were hot;
 And kissed him for his mother, and breathed a gentle prayer
 As the angel's wings were fluttering above them in the air.

And to a lonely country home, far in the heart of Maine,
 A letter soon was carried from that Southern battle plain.
 It told about the conflict, and how he bravely fell
 Who was the son and brother in that home beloved so well;
 It told the simple story of the night when he had died –
 All written by the rebel Deke whom God sent to his side.
 And when it all was written, the writer sent within
 A little lock of curly hair and a battered diamond pin.

And thirty years have passed away, but these simple relics are
 Of all a mother treasures dear, the dearest still by far.

A simple tale and simply told, but true; and I thought it might
 Well thrill the hearts of loyal Dekes, so I tell it here to-night.
 The Northern soldier's name is found on Bowdoin's honor-roll;
 And the names of both are blazoned fair on Delta Kappa's scroll.
 God bless our noble brotherhood; its past is sweet to hear,
 And its grandeur and its glory grow with each succeeding year;
 And the story of its heroes shall an inspiration be
 To us who proudly wear to-day the pin of *D K E*.

THE RHO NEWS

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