



The Rho Chapter Crest

The Rho News

The President's Report

Dear Brothers,

It is with great pleasure that I report to you that the Rho Chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon continues to be strong. Our undergraduates remain campus leaders and continue to enhance our already good reputation in the Lafayette community. I am also very pleased to announce that we are currently pledging 16 men, an encouraging number given the number of challenges facing the Greek organizations at present.

Regretfully, I would also like to take this opportunity to announce that this will be my last time addressing you in the *Rho News* as President. After serving as your Alumni Association president for a decade, I feel it is time to hand the reigns over to someone new.

Much has happened and indeed so much has changed since I began my tenure at Homecoming 1995. At that time, Arthur Rothkopf was just beginning his term as College President, there were 11 fraternities on campus, freshmen were permitted to pledge, the Alumni Interfraternal and Sorority Board was meeting regularly, the major College Capital Campaign had yet to begin, and Mike Michaels was leading us all in the Lion March. Now, 10 years later, we are welcoming a new College president, only 6 fraternities remain, freshmen are no longer allowed to join fraternities, the College as a whole has undergone significant renovations, and unfortunately, we no longer have Mike to lead our cheers. Yet were he here with us today, Mike would be able to look back proudly at the progress of the last 10 years and see a DKE that has emerged as the leader of the Greek community, is the envy of the other alumni associations, and is held in high regard by the College administration.

With these changes, the role of the alumni association officers has evolved as well. Given the new scrutiny on House maintenance, undergraduate finances, new member rush and initiation, and emphasis on philanthropic efforts, alumni officers have had to become considerably more involved in the day to

Special points of interest:

- Homecoming is October 15th
- Annual Brother's Meeting is Noon on Saturday at the House
- 150th Anniversary Dinner is Friday, October 14th

day operations of the House, dealing with, for example, the administration on the Threshold 2000 Initiative, coaching the rush chairman on effective rush, working with the house manager in preparation for City and College inspections, and communicating with the live-in advisor. As we have successfully evolved to meet these challenges, I feel that now is a good time for me to step down and bring on a team who can dedicate the necessary time and bring renewed and continued vitality to the office.

The job of Alumni President requires addressing the needs and concerns of three constituencies: the undergraduates, the alumni, and the College administration. I must admit that I could not have been even remotely as successful as Alumni President without the help of so many dedicated others. First, I would like to thank the current set of officers, Steve Scioscia and Mark Damiano as well as Fletcher Thomson. The last few years have certainly been challenging, but together, we successfully adapted, adjusted and succeeded in an unfavorable environment for Greek life on campus. I would also like to acknowledge the assistance of Richard Phillips, who has long contributed to the different activities of the Alumni Association, and has provided me with a great deal of assistance and support in carrying on my duties over the past year. Further, I would like to thank the many who served as association officers in the last 10 years, and those who provided a significant amount of crucial assistance when called upon: Mark Sufredini, Joe Stella, Brian Ciuffreda, Dave Kiefer, John Terembula, Mark Federov, and Alex Dippel. Finally, I would especially like to extend my thanks to Dan Huffenus, my predecessor, who trusted and put faith in a young punk to guide our Brotherhood into the future. I apologize in advance if I inadvertently omitted anyone, as so many have stepped up and have contributed to our continued success over the years. I am proud of what we all have been able to achieve together.

In closing, I want to thank all of you for your support throughout the years and for giving me the opportunity to shape DKE at Lafayette into not only the top Fraternity at Lafayette, but into arguably the strongest DKE chapter internationally. I look forward to seeing you all at Homecoming and celebrating our 150th year anniversary at Lafayette.

For the final time...In the Bonds,



Sandy Balkin '94
Alumni President
Rho of DKE House Corporation

Homecoming 2005 Celebrating The 150th Anniversary of Rho

Saturday, October 15, 2005 is not only Homecoming at Lafayette, but will also mark the 150th Anniversary of the founding of our Rho Chapter on October 15, 1855. The Annual Brother's Meeting is set for 12 Noon at the DKE House.

In celebration of this historic anniversary as the oldest fraternity at Lafayette College, a 150th Anniversary Alumni Dinner is set for Friday, October 14, 2005 at the Pomfret Club in Easton, PA. ***The dinner is formal, and the dress code for men is suit and tie (tuxedos are not necessary).*** Previous *Rho News* mailings, as well as emails, telephone calls and word-of-mouth talking up this event have resulted in an excellent response, perhaps making it the largest event in the last 50 years, and we now have confirmed RSVPs from 125, the maximum number that the Pomfret Club can accommodate. Look for a report on this event in the next issue of the *Rho News*. See you at Homecoming!

ALUMNI DUES

There are two ways that you can help financially support the House. First, your Rho House Association Dues:

0-5 years since graduation: \$15
 5-10 years since graduation: \$25
 10+ years since graduation: \$45

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, Mark Damiano, 833 Paxinosa Avenue, Easton, PA 18042. Dues payments are not tax-deductible.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR HOUSE RENOVATION FUND

The College is working in partnership with us by allowing our alumni and friends to make a tax-deductible contribution to Lafayette and earmark those funds to our renovation efforts. Contributions will count towards annual fund giving thresholds (e.g. Marquis Society). To contribute to this account, simply write your check to Lafayette College and write "DKE Building Fund" on the memo line. Contributions can also be made using a credit card by contacting the College's Annual Fund office at 610-330-5034, and mentioning that you want to make a contribution to benefit DKE. In either case, to ensure that your contribution is accurately applied to the DKE account, please contact Mark Damiano, our Alumni Treasurer, at marcdam@rcn.com or 610-438-0780 to make him aware of your donation.

IS YOUR ADDRESS AND CONTACT INFORMATION UP-TO-DATE? ARE YOU MOVING SOON? RECENTLY MARRIED? 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

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ALUMNI UPDATES

Dan Moore '75 writes to say that he recently became a grandfather. Grandson Connor was born last September 2004 to his eldest son.

Greg Bahtiarian '87 wrote to report: A gathering of four Rho Dekes took place in Chicago hosted by Mark Gupta '87 and his wife Jackie. Greg Bahtiarian '87 and his wife Ellen, Mike McCormack '87 and his wife Barb, and Chris Tedeschi '87 and his wife Stacey all traveled to Mark's beautiful home in Hinsdale, Illinois on July 29th for a weekend of relaxation and fun, and enjoyed reminiscing about old times. The group took in some of the sights of Chicago including a Cubs game at Wrigley Field and a few drinks at Murphy's. They even made time for a late night beer pong match. The only disappointment about the weekend was unfortunately Mark's poor pong performance. Overall, a great time was truly had by all. The group met two years earlier at Greg's home in Lewes, Delaware for a beach weekend. They hope to make the gathering a yearly event.

Mark is a venture capitalist and has two children, Michael and Abby, and one on the way. Greg is a family physician and partner of Mid-Atlantic Family Practice and has two children, Brian and Michele. Mickey is a Director of RCG Information Technology and has two children, Andrew and Kevin. Chris is an engineer with LEEM / LSS Filtration and has one child, Kristin.

Bayard Smith '95 is a personal injury lawyer with Levinson Axelrod in NJ. If you are injured, call him on 732-494-2727 (jbsmith@njlawyers.com) to protect your interests.

Fletch Thomson '98 recently joined Halloran & Sage LLP's Hartford, CT office as an associate. His practice concentrates on products liability defense and business litigation. If Bayard is suing you in CT or MA, give Fletch a call...

Submissions: *The next issue of The Rho News is due out in Spring 2006. If you have an alumni update or other submission that you would like included in the next issue, please contact Fletch Thomson '98 before February 1, 2006. Fletch can be reached via email: Thomson@halloran-sage.com, or telephone: 860-297-4634 (wk).*

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