



The Rho Chapter Crest

The Rho News

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Brothers,

As I reported at our annual Homecoming meeting the state of the Rho House Association remains strong. As I write to you, our undergraduates have shown good leadership and initiative in recruiting 17 new men to join our Brotherhood. They are making strides on campus both inside the classroom and in the Lafayette Community. Despite tighter budget constraints, we have maintained our financial condition. We have made a concerted effort to make the House's finances more transparent and have hired a new accountant. We plan to make capital improvements to the House this summer. We have also greatly improved our web presence. Now we can communicate with you far better with this refurbished, updated site.

Despite this progress, our organization faces many challenges as the school changes. Lafayette has been in transition for some time as many of you know. As before we will need to adapt accordingly, as we did for instance with the advent of Sophomore Rush. Although there are now fewer Fraternities competing for members, we now have to contend with newly built modernized dorms, other living groups, and a general greater sense of apathy among the student population. We need to realize that although still important, Greek Life is not as central to the campus as it was 15 years ago. We have to change; after all we've done it before and it has allowed us to grow with the school. It might not always have been pleasant or easy but we always found a way to remain relevant by adapting while staying true to our core beliefs.

Lafayette's new Administration is keenly interested in improving the already strong academic standing of the school. We need to understand the Administration's goals and convince them that DKE can be a partner in the process. It is important to the Undergraduates for *Compass* (formerly known as STEPS); it is also important as we look to recruit new members. We need to ask ourselves, "What can DKE offer to students that they can't get elsewhere on campus?" Admittedly, this question was easier to answer a decade ago, however as I'm sure you all agree DKE can offer quite a lot to students and to the Lafayette Community as whole. In an age when too many dismiss in-

Special points of interest:

- Please visit our website and new forum database at WWW.RHODKE.ORG. You can now donate and pay your dues using our PayPal buttons!
- The newly elected undergrad President is Marshall Massey
- Winterfest will be at McSorley's in NYC on Saturday December, 16th.

dividual accountability and embrace the “entitlement culture” so prevalent in today’s youth—DKE can provide something different. It is a unique experience that has changed us all—and one for which we are grateful. I realize that might be a harder sell these days—but we offer students something they truly can’t find elsewhere and we need to make them aware of it. We offer them access to a broad social network and real life valuable lessons in leadership, teamwork, responsibility, conflict resolution, and compromise. These are our selling points that appeal to the new kind of student Lafayette is trying to attract.

Sandy Balkin ’94, the former President of the Rho House Association, and my predecessor left us with an organization in excellent shape. He has guided us successfully through very many changes at Lafayette. Many Greek organizations buckled under this new pressure and left campus. Due to Sandy and others’ leadership, the substantial support of alumni, and undergraduate commitment we not only survived—we thrived and grew. I am grateful to him and so many others for the work, time, resources, and effort given to the House. His tenure marked one of great achievement during a challenging time for Greek Life at Lafayette. Through perseverance, through reaching out, and through great leadership his administration was able to weather a tempest of changes to Greek life.

I have a tough act to follow to be sure, but I am confident we can do a great job moving us forward. I am confident because I have an outstanding group of fellow officers: **Dan Carreno ’04** now serves as Vice President—he has been terrific—he provides a bridge between the older guys and the undergraduates. He has been very adept in nipping potential crises situations in the bud and maintaining risk management procedures that keep us on campus and thriving. Eight months into the job, **Peter Carlson ’02** has been a phenomenal treasurer already—he has put our financial house in very good order. He has streamlined and made more transparent all of our finances and has shown great ability in the face of the budgetary challenges we have faced. **Mike DeLisi ’03** has done a fantastic job putting the new website together and **Jason Zomick ’02** has been indispensable putting together this installment of the Rho News. I would be remiss without mentioning that I am grateful to all of the Brotherhood for their advice, support, and input during my first months in office.

I hope you continue to contribute as we reach out—as an officer corps we want to re-invigorate alumni involvement and interest. We all have a role to play in this—Undergraduates need to make alumni feel more welcome and appreciated—Alumni need to make an effort to get to know the Undergraduates and younger Alumni. It is my hope that this involvement becomes contagious. Just a personal example, I never attended college with Sandy Balkin or Mark Suffredini, yet I would consider them two very close friends today. This is because both they and I went out of our ways leaving our complacent comfort zone at Homecoming or other DKE-related events. It is really not that hard and can be invaluable to many of our younger brothers as they build their social/professional networks.

Our first year was one of transition, one in which we re-built relationships with the Administration, reached out to Alumni, and sought plenty of advice from those who did such a great job before us. I think we now have a great foundation—from which we can build—I’m looking forward to a very successful year of progress for the House. I want to wish you and your families a wonderful Holiday Season and best wishes in the New Year.

In the Bonds,

Richard Phillips ‘98
President
Rho House Association

Brothers,

I am honored to introduce myself to all of you as the new Vice President of the Rho House Association. My tenure in this position is approaching the one year mark and I am pleased to report that despite some recent adversity, DKE is without a doubt the finest fraternity on campus. We all owe a great deal of gratitude to Sandy Balkin, Steve Scioscia, and Mark Damiano for their dedication over the years. I have little doubt that without their service DKE would not be in the same good standing that it is today and I wish them all well in future endeavors.

Matt Phillips, Undergrad President '05, also deserves commendation for his efforts over the past year. Working with Matt has been a pleasure. His hard work and quick thinking were essential components to overcoming some obstacles this past year. As Matt moves into the esteemed position of president emeritus, Marshall Massey will be taking his place in guiding Rho for the coming year.

A primary initiative for me will be ensuring the maintenance and improvement of the Rho House going forward. Those of you who are fortunate enough to make it back to campus from time to time, I am sure you have noticed the ever improving façade of Lafayette College. The administration continues to renovate existing buildings and create impressive new housing for students. Considering both the perspectives of pride and recruitment, it is essential for us to make sure DKE continues to be one of the more impressive structures on campus. So please know that we are working together to properly invest in the Rho House where it is most needed and I will be providing more detailed initiatives in following newsletters to keep you all informed. I feel that active participation by the brotherhood in such projects is essential, so I encourage any of you to contact me via phone or email to discuss future plans.

Thank you all for your interest and support and I look forward to seeing many of you at McSorley's in New York City.

ITB,
Dan Carreno, '04
Vice President
Rho House Association

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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.

**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**

Dear Brothers,

As of this past spring, I have taken the reigns as Rho House Association Treasurer from the capable hands of Mark Damiano. Upon inheriting this responsibility I have found ourselves in good standing with many thanks to Mark.

However, as of the 2005-2006 school year, there is a new financial reality facing our fraternity. The result is that we are now responsible for a greater portion of the total Rho DKE budget, and are projecting an annual deficit if all things remain as they have been. We are taking many steps to improve this situation, but the fact of the matter is that we need donations and dues to total \$10,000 annually if we are to meet our goals.

So on a related issue, I would like to clear up any confusion about the ways in which you can donate to DKE. The first and best way is to send donations, in addition to your dues, directly to the Rho House Association via the enclosed envelope or via PayPal on our Rhodke.org website. Funds raised in this manner give us the most flexibility in terms of what we can spend it on, and how we invest it. These donations are not tax deductible despite much effort on my part.

The second way to donate to DKE is to send your check to Lafayette College and write "FOR DKE" in the memo line. You can also donate via the phone or internet, making sure you indicate the donation is to benefit DKE. These donations go into a fund that we can use for capital improvements to the house, not including the kitchen and dining room. We also have to submit proposals to the school before these funds are released. Donations to Lafayette – FOR DKE count towards the Marquis Society and are tax deductible. We would like to be able to track these donations so please fill out the portion of the dues envelope where you indicate what donations you have made to Lafayette College – FOR DKE.

The existence of the DKE House is not in danger. However, if we do not act now and pool our resources then we will not be able to keep the house in good shape, host alumni events or even send out these newsletters. The other officers have mentioned many initiatives that we are very excited about, but obviously none of it will be possible without some capital.

I hope you all have a peaceful holiday season and a wonderful New Years and I thank you in advance for your support of our great fraternity.

ITB,

Peter "Pedro" Carlson '02
Treasurer
Rho House Association



**“Far better it is to dare
mighty things, to win glo-
rious triumphs, even
though checkered by fail-
ure, than to rank with**

**those
spirits
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joy**



**poor
who
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ALUMNI UPDATES

PERCIVAL S. HILL ("Perce") '47

Perce made his last Lafayette reunion some five years ago (in a horse drawn coach, no less!) and made sure he took his daughter Pattey on a tour of the still-standing DKE house. Perce is now in Naples, Florida and lives with son Percy, wife Karen and twin grand children, Victoria Blake Hill and "PJ" - Percival S. Hill, V! Perce still enjoys football and keeps in touch with several classmates. Perce hopes PJ and Victoria, now ten, will be interested in attending Lafayette. Perce would welcome calls from any DKEs (or fellas who wish they were) by calling 239-352-0539

Please also join me in congratulating the recent marriages of both **Chris Hine '00** to Marissa Kimmel and **Anthony Vinhal '98** to Elizabeth Thomas.

Submissions: *The next issue of The Rho News is due out in 2007. 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@hotmail.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, or telephone: 781-234-8485.

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