



The Rho Chapter Crest

The Rho News

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Brothers,

It gives me great pleasure to inform the Brotherhood that the state of the House is strong and improving. Over the summer, we did some needed renovations to the second and third floor hallways. We are welcoming in twelve new brothers this Semester. Our Undergrads continue to add value on campus and in the community at large. Sadly, since the last installment of the Rho News, we said goodbye to Ned Jesser '39. He was a leader to the House and to the College—and served both with distinction and dignity. We are looking forward to Homecoming 2007 and we feel confident about DKE's future at Lafayette.

Although there are reasons to be hopeful about our future, we do face significant challenges to our continued success and indeed survival on campus. The most significant challenge to the House continues to be the budget. These challenges have been causing difficulties since 2005 when Lafayette made significant changes to the way money is allocated to DKE. House Association Treasurer, Peter Carlson '02, will elaborate further on the state of the Association's finances in his piece in this installment of the Rho News. I realize that in the past we have been able to get by with the generous and frequent contributions of some; however, I think it is unfair for us to continue to ask and expect the same folks to step up and carry the House for all of us. We can all do our part and every little bit helps.

To keep pace with other renovations and new construction at Lafayette, we continue to make improvements to the House. Over the summer, the second and third floors were re-done—they look good. Dan Carreno '04 will go into more detail on this project in this newsletter and will further elaborate on this and possible future projects at our noon meeting at Homecoming. Although the House is looking better, we continue to lag other living groups on campus (notably other Greek organizations) in terms of appearance and amenities. We will need to close the gap if we are going to remain competitive in our recruiting efforts.

Special points of interest:

- Please visit our website and forum database at WWW.RHODKE.ORG. You can now donate and pay your dues using our PayPal buttons!
- Our GPA is the highest it's been in 5 years.
- The House received a mini 1964 composite from Harry E. Roach III. The undergrads always appreciate these gifts for the house.
- Won "Best Interfraternalism" at last semester's Greek Awards.

We cannot maintain our franchise without the commitment of Undergrads, a commitment that I am happy to inform you that I see improving. The school has used "Compass" to evaluate each living group's contribution to Lafayette and its broader community. Although we fell short last year, I am confident that this year we are on a track for passing. I strongly believe this year's Compass will demonstrate the quality young men our House is producing and their value to the school. I stand by these words--we will pass Compass this year!

I and my fellow House Association Officers look forward to seeing you at this year's Homecoming. We welcome and expect to hear your concerns, complaints, criticisms, and suggestions on how to serve DKE better. The Annual Meeting will be held at noon in the House, Saturday October 20, 2007.

To conclude, the House although strong, has some headwinds which together as a Brotherhood I expect us to overcome. It (as always) will take Brothers taking a greater sense of ownership—we have done it in the past and cannot survive without doing it in the future. Together, with a renewed sense of ownership, we can maintain a House worthy of its tradition and history.

In the Bonds,



Richard P. Phillips '98
President, Rho House Association
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Dear Brothers,

The financial challenges facing our house continue as we adapt to the drastically reduced budget from Lafayette that went into effect in 2005. Our operating account has maintained a steady balance, but we have been unable to realize the growth necessary to keep our house on par with the higher quality living arrangements available on campus, including other fraternities. There are a great number of programs and events that we would like to put together, but as it stands now, we struggle to fund a homecoming celebration with the amenities that we are accustomed to.

We have been very creative in finding ways to improve our financial standing. Some of the initiatives that we have explored are: submitting house improvement items to Lafayette's renovation budget; asking our undergraduates to pay for the liability insurance provided through DKE International; requesting a rate of return for our capital improvement account with Lafayette; utilizing alumni expertise to realize a greater rate of return for our House Association account; and continuing to revise our budget with Lafayette to ensure that they are living up to their requirements under our lease.

Despite all of our efforts, we still need an increased commitment from our alumni if we are to maintain the high standard set throughout the 152 year history of our chapter. Lafayette continues its commitment to the improvement of their students and their facilities, and our house must improve alongside them to provide a society and facility that is attractive to today's student.

There are two ways to provide funds to the house. The first is by writing FOR DKE on any donation to Lafayette which goes into our capital improvement account (tax deductible). The second is through your dues and sinking fund contributions which go to our House Association operating account (not tax deductible). It is imperative that we maintain a solid balance in both accounts so that we have the flexibility to use our funds to satisfy the most pressing need.

I hope to see all of you at homecoming 2007 where I would be happy to discuss any of the aforementioned issues, or any other ideas you may have. I would also like to thank you in advance for your generous support of our great fraternity.

In The Bonds,

Peter Carlson '02
Rho House Association Treasurer

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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,

I would like to use this installment of the Rho News to update all alumni on the status of the DKE House. It is my pleasure to report that our main initiative over the summer was a great success. The flooring on the second and third floors has been completely replaced in both the corridors as well as the inner rooms. The tile floor in the corridors has been replaced with a hardwood composite floor which came highly recommended for durability. We can only hope this investment will withstand the test of time, and more importantly, the test of DKE in the years to come. The inner room flooring has been replaced with carpeting and although we cannot expect the same longevity there, replacing the carpet at certain intervals is something we are capable and willing to do.

For those of you that have not had the pleasure to return to the house and see for yourself, both the Alumni Association as well as our undergrad brothers are in agreement that this project has resulted in a vast improvement. The upper floors of the house have certainly taken on a more comfortable and distinguished appearance, which should benefit the living conditions of our undergrads as well as their ability to recruit. As you have probably all noticed, Lafayette has perpetually improved the housing standards on campus and it is extremely important for us to not let our beloved DKE house pale in comparison.

Please know that we are going to continue to make such improvements and we currently discussing several new projects. I have stressed this point numerous times in last annual meeting, but the collective ideas and feel back of the alumni are absolutely essential in making our efforts pertinent and efficient. So as you visit DKE for Homecoming and other events, please feel free to reach out to me or other members of the Rho House Association to let us know where improvement is most needed.

In addition, please be mindful that our resources to make such improvements are limited. Hence, any financial contributions for the improvement of the house are both needed and appreciated.

ITB,

Dan Carreno '04
Vice President, Rho House Association



Gentlemen: I am pleased to share with you some perspectives on the happenings on campus.

1) Alumni Association: The LCAA boasts more than 27,000 members and 100 committee members are working hard to stay connected and relevant to all of you. If you have not already done so, register for the "Online Community" on the alumni page of the website. More than 4000 alums have, but we want everybody! It is a fast and efficient way to stay in touch with Lafayette. Similarly, you can get a daily email about campus news and happenings and the monthly Marquis Mailer (available to alums only) by registering on the same site. You can also register for a free electronic issue of the on campus newspaper if you like. You can order stuff from the school store (including the new Lafayette commissioned Vineyard Vine ties). You high rollers can order the Hermes scarf commemorating the Marquis' 250th birthday. These are offered through the Skillman library.

The alumni offered an "orientation to Life" program last spring to seniors. The program was well attended and introduced attendees facing the working world to topics ranging from 401(k)s to medical benefits to credit issues. We are looking to build on this and are considering more such events. The alumni networking events and chapters (we have 53 of them) are growing and attracting more and more loyal alums. Go to one of these events; you won't be disappointed. The College's externship program continues to grow and introduce current students to alumni in their professional settings. Go to the alumni magazine links on the alumni webpage to read about this program.

2) The College: Lafayette received a record number of applications (>6300) in 2006. Approximately 34% of applicants were admitted and 592 matriculated. The diversity of the Freshman class continues to grow with >20% being students of color. 962 international students applied; 40 enrolled.

The campus is vibrant and in good shape and the facilities amaze me every time I visit campus. I toured the new Varsity Football House last month with Coach Tavani. It is amazing. Better than many pro teams' facilities. Check it out when you're on campus. I think there will be some tours offered on non-game days.

Dan Weiss is doing an excellent job as our College President. Dan is smart, approachable and knows how to get things done. He and his wife, Sandra, live in the President's house on the edge of campus with their 2 young sons. Dan has done an excellent job already and is planning for Lafayette's continued success. The Trustees will review a proposed strategic plan for Lafayette at the Trustee's meeting on October 20, 2007.

The Marquis' 250th anniversary attracted a lot of attention to the campus and helped the College build its relationship with Easton. The first ever night football game against Marist was a success, drawing 9000 fans.

3) Ned Jesser: I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge with great sadness the passing of one of our great DKE leaders. Edward A. ("Ned") Jesser '39 was one of the first alumni brothers I had the good fortune to meet. He was a very loyal supporter of the College and DKE (including his service as President of the RHO House Association for several years before Matt Sheeleigh). Ned was a welcoming and friendly face to all who entered the DKE house and was a steady hand to us over the years. Ned will be missed.

ITB,
Paul McCurdy '82

HOMECOMING October 19-21

We look forward to taking back March Field this year! The paved lot on March Field will be reserved for pass holders to the clambake the college is running. Students are required to move their cars to the new parking deck behind the House on Sullivan Lane. This should reduce the number of young alumni tailgating on March Field who have infringed on our "turf" in past years. Please consider bringing your spouse and children as there should be a more family friendly environment for tailgating this year.

If you are looking for lodging, there are still rooms available at the Quality Inn on South 3rd Street just past the circle in downtown Easton (formerly the Best Western). Their number is (610) 253-9131.



The schedule of events for this year's Homecoming:

Friday, October 19th

5:30PM Marquis Society Pre-reception

Following the lecture by Ron Chernow, we will be hosting a reception with light cocktails in the living room on the first floor of DKE. Jacket suggested and you are encouraged to invite over any faculty members you would like to reconnect with. All Brothers and their spouses are welcome. Members of the Marquis Society, who have RSVP'd to the Marquis Society dinner, will proceed together to the Kamine Gymnasium in the Allan P. Kirby Sports Center for dinner at 6:30.

10PM Oktoberfest

Join us in the bar room for our annual celebration of Oktoberfest at Homecoming.

Saturday, October 20th

9AM-11:30 AM Breakfast

Breakfast will be prepared by our esteemed cook, Walt Luby. Brothers and their families are welcome.

Noon Annual Rho DKE Meeting

Our annual Brothers meeting will take place in the living room on the first floor. Alumni President Rich Phillips will chair the meeting.

1-4 PM Lafayette v. Fordham Football Game at Fischer Field

For those not attending the game, we will be tailgating on March Field.

5-6:30 PM Happy Hour Cocktails and Hors d'oeuvres

Immediately following the game, we will be serving food and cocktails in the barroom of the House. Stop by and meet your Brothers for a drink and a bite to eat.

BROTHER NED JESSER

“FRIENDS FROM THE HEART FOREVER”

Our motto is more than just words. My initiation in 1950 was the cornerstone of many life long relationships. Ned Jesser being one of the giants in my Deke experience. Seldom have I been on the campus and in the house that Ned's smiling face was not there too. He was always anxious to know how the house was doing, how many brothers, how many pledges, what help did the brothers need? He was there to help, to do what was needed, to go see the Dean, or the administration – however the house or a brother might benefit from his influence.

Ned and Mike Michaels established a standard for brotherhood as a life long commitment and experience. We, brothers in the bond, have had the benefit of this wonderful gift of their friendship, and this standard of behavior that they lived by. Use it, live by it, share it, and pass it on to the next generation.

There is a wonderful poem by Wilbur D. Nesbit titled “A Friend or Two”. It is too long to recite here, but the last stanza speaks to what Deke is all about.

Then brim the goblet and quaff the toast
To a friend or two
For glad the man who can always boast
Of a friend or two
But fairest sight is a friendly face
The blithest tread is a friendly pace,
And heaven will be a better place
For a friend or two.

By Bob Louglin, Class of '53



ALUMNI “Where Are They Now” UPDATES

Bayard Smith '95 recently sold his condo in Edison NJ and bought a house. He works as a personal injury trial attorney in New Jersey call Levinson Axelrod, P.A. They have 7 locations across the state and are one of the Biggest Personal Injury firms in the state so if any Deke undergrads or guys who are currently in law school want to work or intern here just give him a call. Also he's still in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard and is a Major. I recently found out that his Unit is being mobilized and will be deploying to the Egypt for a year.

Michael Amatangelo '02 is proud to announce his engagement to Kelly Barnes '01. The marital ceremony is planned for September 2008. Join us in wishing Brother Amatangelo and his fiancé congratulations at Homecoming this year!

Submissions: *The next issue of The Rho News is due out in 2008. 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.

THE RHO NEWS

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