



The Rho Chapter Crest

The Rho News

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Brothers,

I hope our latest installment of the Rho News reaches you in good health and good spirits. We have some good news to relate. DKE recently received an "Excellent" on its latest Compass score from Student Life for 2007. We plan a golf outing this summer in the Northern, NJ area which I hope many of you can attend. The school has provided us with a much needed new washer and dryer for our undergraduates. Dan Carreno '04 will discuss ongoing and potential projects for capital improvements that we are planning for the House in his Rho News piece. Currently, we are looking into window replacement for the entire House. Our budget stance has stabilized, but funding continues to present us with our greatest challenge as an organization. Peter Carlson '02 will discuss budgetary matters and our financial position in greater detail in this Rho News letter. Our negotiations with Lafayette's Treasurer, Mitchell Wein, have been productive as well. Our Undergraduate Brothers continue to lead the campus in contributing to the Lafayette Community. We are pleased with their efforts for 2007, and hope they will continue as we move through the rest of this semester and into the fall.

For those of you that may not be familiar with "Compass", it is a report submitted to the school each calendar year that is used to evaluate our organization's contribution to the campus in terms scholarship, extra-curricular involvement, and philanthropy—much like the "STEPS" manual that some of you may remember. Please join me in commending our Undergraduate Brothers, and Undergraduate President Emeritus Marshall Massey '08. Marshall, along with his fellow undergraduate officers, did a great job and the whole Brotherhood did their part as well. A special thank you also goes to Alumni Officer Mike Delisi '03. He spearheaded our efforts to take an organized, systematic approach to the project of Compass. He worked with the undergraduates and the Administration throughout the process and his efforts were crucial in getting us our "Excellent" rating. We are very pleased with the progress we have made in institutionalizing the Compass program. We have put in place procedures that will keep us in a position to pass this important evaluation consistently. I am confident that even as the school changes some of its procedures (which I understand they plan to do) our organized, systematic approach will keep us on track.

Mike Delisi '03 has been a great help to me over the past year and a great benefit to the House Association. He has taken the duties assigned to him and surpassed expectations. Besides his great work with Compass, he has been taking more responsibility and visibility in our organization—and has been indispensable over the past year to me and his fellow officers. He has been building rapport and refining contacts with the Administration. He knows how to communicate effectively with the Alumni, Undergraduates, and the Administration. He understands the concerns and needs of these key constituencies. It is my intention and expectation that he will take on more responsibilities in our Association as the year continues. I know he will continue to make valuable contributions to our Brotherhood as we move through 2008 and into the future.

Let me share with you some initiatives the school is undertaking. The Board of Trustees has approved changes in the financial-aid policies that will reduce the extent of loans in the need-based aid packages that are provided to students from families with incomes of \$100,000 or less. This investment in additional financial aid significantly advances the school's objective of attracting and supporting a diverse campus community and fulfills an important social mission by furthering access to higher education for all. The College is also investing substantially in reducing the student/faculty ratio. By the end of this academic year, searches will be under way for 8 to 10 new faculty members. Their plan is to increase the overall size of the faculty by 35 positions (nearly 20 percent) over the next five years, without increasing the size of the student body. They plan to hire 8 to 10 new faculty members each year until this goal is reached and the student/faculty ratio is reduced from the current 11:1 to below 10:1; a level the school believes more closely matches that of premier small colleges. The College has selected Ayers Saint Gross, a leading architectural and planning firm headquartered in Baltimore, to assist in developing a campus master plan. In the next few years, the College plans to construct several new facilities, including a life sciences building, an admissions welcome center, and an academic building to accommodate the increased size of the faculty. We as an organization applaud President Weiss's efforts and stand ready to assist how we can. As the new Capital Campaign is ready to begin we stand ready to do our part as we always do.

Our organization has always coped with challenges as Lafayette has transformed over the years. We are tempted to think every change in school policy or on the Campus itself means the beginning of the end for Rho. Yet we continue to thrive and remain a relevant presence on campus and in the eyes of the Lafayette Community and Administration. I am heartened by the changes we have made to streamline the budget, manage the compass process, build rapport with the Administration, attract new members, and put in place a medium and long-term plan for bringing the House up to Campus standards through targeted capital improvements in concert (when possible) with the school. We need to compete with the other living alternatives available on Campus. This has not been an easy fix—nor will it be an quick fix—yet I am confident that our plan is on track and the school shares our vision for a 21st century DKE House.

Gentlemen, although we are pleased with some of the progress we have made, we cannot afford to become complacent. Attracting a sizable new member class for next fall will be essential; and that is as you know a drawn-out process which requires a lot of effort over a sustained period of time. Our budget discussions with the school give us reason to be optimistic—but our financial constraints remain. We have gotten positive feedback on our capital improvement plans—but no firm commitments to any particular or substantial projects have been made to date. We completed a successful Compass round, but will need to keep up the good work to remain in the Administration's good graces. So although we are pleased with our progress, this is not the time for being overly self-congratulatory or overconfident. We still face challenges to our long-term sustainability and have a lot of work to do. Our message to our Undergrads is keep up the good work—our franchise is, as it has always been, in your hands. My words to our Alumni: thank you for your support; your efforts, comments, and questions help us serve you and the Association better.

You will find in this Rho News upcoming DKE events and functions with dates and details. I look forward to seeing you there and as always feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

In the Bonds,



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

I am happy to report that the financial status of the House Association continues to improve. The first reason for this is continued alumni donations that have come a long way in replenishing our account since last summer's replacement of the 2nd and 3rd level floors. My sincere thanks go out to all for taking the time to make these contributions.

The second reason for improvement is due to an improving financial relationship with Lafayette. I had the opportunity to sit down with the new treasurer for Lafayette, Mitchell Wein, who just began his term in the fall of 2007. During the meeting, we discussed how the budgeting system for fraternities could be improved so that DKE is only responsible for those costs that are truly under our control. He followed up on our discussion by investigating the current process and has agreed to revise it in a way that will no longer leave our house shorthanded for reasons such as escalating energy costs. We have another meeting scheduled for this June where we will continue to develop a budgeting process that benefits both Lafayette and our great Fraternity.

Another topic of my meeting with the treasurer concerned who is responsible for various house expenses. While this conversation is very much ongoing, Lafayette took a positive step forward by purchasing a new commercial washer and dryer for the house – something that has never been done before. The next items for discussion are the house windows that my other officers have mentioned.

I look forward to continued progress in making DKE the very definition of excellence by further improving the financial relations with alumni, undergraduates, and the Lafayette administration. If anyone should have any comments or suggestions don't hesitate to contact me using my information contained herein.

Please remember to mark "For DKE" on all your tax deductible donations to Lafayette that do count towards the Marquis Society, and I thank you in advance for your generosity.

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,

COMPASS is Lafayette College's Greek Chapter Development Program which runs on a calendar year basis, coinciding with the term of the Undergraduate President. Last year, I volunteered to lead the COMPASS effort on behalf of the Alumni Association. It was a challenge and we set some high goals for us and the Undergraduates.

I am pleased to report that DKE obtained the highest rating of "Excellent" for 2007, exceeding even our most optimistic expectations. Only one other fraternity received this rating this year, and we are the first fraternities to achieve this feat since the College implemented COMPASS in 2003.

Over the past year I worked closely with the undergraduate President Emeritus, Marshall Massey. I related to him the lofty expectations the alumni have of undergraduates, especially in terms of Compass performance. Thanks to the hard work of the undergrads, Delta Kappa Epsilon continues to lead the way in making a positive contribution to campus life as evidenced by our Compass results.

The college's Greek Life Advisor, Terry Weber, praised our efforts at both the alumni and undergraduate level. He specifically cited the undergrads following up on his suggestion to photograph COMPASS events, noting that we were the only chapter to do so. He was also impressed with the amount of work that the undergrads put into every single event despite having many more events than we have in the past.

Additionally, Terry spoke highly of our Speaker's Bureau Program, which we launched this past fall. In this program, alumni visit the house to discuss their careers and professional development. We center each event on one type of career path; engineering was the topic for the first Speaker's Bureau.

This spring, we are organizing a Speaker's Bureau around the legal profession. We anticipate having an event focused around finance next fall. If you are interested in participating in a session, please contact me via e-mail.

Terry also noted the improvements we made to the house in replacing the second and third floors. He agreed to work with the college's new Treasurer on our goal of bringing the house up to at least the standard of the dorms. Our planned improvements will require investment by both the alumni and the College.

Moving forward, the college would like to get away from the current point scale system to focus more on how COMPASS enriches a chapter overall. Rest assured that we will continue to excel under any criteria the College puts in place. I look forward to working with the undergrads, including the new undergraduate President Joseph Nam, as well as all of the alumni to continue the DKE tradition of excellence.

In the bonds of brotherhood,

Michael De Lisi '03

Dear Brothers,

As you all know, we have a continuous initiative to improve the quality of life at DKE for those undergraduate brothers living in, enjoying, and sometimes enduring our cherished DKE house. I do hope that everyone has had a chance to see the new hardwood floors that we installed last summer in the second and third floor hallways. The floors and overall atmosphere of the upper levels of the house have been extremely well received by the undergrad residents and visiting alumni alike.

In addition to the flooring, I was very pleased to see that our undergraduate brothers have taken the initiative to utilize the space within the house as wisely as possible by creating a common area where brothers and guests can congregate. By wisely pooling their resources they were even able to equip this common area with a flat screen television, which in my opinion, adds a much needed compliment to the common areas on the ground floor. So kudos to our young brothers.

As for the next venture for us as alumni, we have taken a much more pragmatic approach and determined that the windows at DKE are long overdue for replacement. We feel the new windows would offer a significant upgrade over the existing windows in terms of aesthetics from the outside of the house, but much more importantly, this offers the residents of the house a much better quality of life during the winter months and also will provide a much more financially and socially acceptable cost of energy for DKE.

In the most direct terms possible: the investment into the house significant. This is not a project that we can undertake without funding from the school. I would like to applaud Peter Carlson for his work with the school's financial department and his strives to secure such funding. Personally I feel that the school should find such a project mutually beneficial and I am working on an energy cost savings proposal that should ensure their support. Input is always appreciated and I encourage everyone to contact me with thoughts and comments on our tasks for 2008.

ITB,

Dan Carreno '04



Upcoming ALUMNI events

- *Clambake: Saturday May 3rd , Deke House*
- *Second Annual Alumni Pong Tournament: Saturday May 17th, Todd Mangel's Backyard*
- *Third Annual Summerfest: Saturday June 21st, Bohemian Hall & Beer Garden (Astoria, NY)*
- *Family & Friends Rho DKE Golf Outing: Tuesday August 12th, TBD*

** Details to follow, please check website and email*

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@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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