



The Rho Chapter Crest

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The Rho News

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Brothers,

I hope this edition of the Rho News finds you in good health and spirits after a banner year for the Rho Chapter.

In Chapter News, Rho of Delta Kappa Epsilon won Lafayette's 2011 Hoff Award for Outstanding Living Group. We are the first Greek organization to win this award since 2003. In addition, we received the highest possible rating of "Excellent" on COMPASS for the third time in four years. COMPASS is Lafayette's program for evaluating Greek organizations. I applaud the efforts of our undergraduates to achieve these results, which are a testament to the strength of Rho.

We are not resting on our laurels in our quest for excellence. Despite honors performance by some members, our chapter's collective GPA is below the all college men's GPA with a minority of our members falling below the all college average. This year the alumni association began a scholarship program that recognizes academic achievement as measured by our chapter's GPA each semester in tiers, with the highest reward provided if we surpass the all-college men's GPA in any given semester.

The Greek Life Working Group, composed of faculty members, students, and alumni (including Brother Paul McCurdy '82), submitted their report to the Board of Trustees in May. On July 13th, the Group published their Executive Summary online and a copy is available from www.rhodke.org. The summary includes sections on Community Engagement, Academic Excellence, Personal Integrity & Responsibility, Diversity & Inclusiveness, and Recommendations. We look forward to working with our actives, peer organizations and college officials to build on the Working Group's recommendations.

On the topic of Greek Life on campus, six sororities and four fraternities remain recognized on campus – ΔKE, ΖΨ, ΦΚΨ, and ΔΥ. ΔΥ moved out of XΦ house as XΦ seeks to repopulate with current members. There is a dispute between XΦ and the college as to the status of XΦ, which we hope will be resolved amicably in the near future. Following several alcohol infractions, ΚΔΡ's alumni recently decided to pull their local charter with the intent to be recognized by national and the college in five years. ΩΨΦ, a historically black fraternity, operates on campus without recognition by the college or a chapter house. ΔKE pursued a different strategy of cooperation and mutual support with the college rather than the course pursued by other fraternal organizations; we flourished as a result of this decision.

This academic year marked the first term under our new lease with the college. Our alumni worked closely with undergraduates and college representatives to improve the conditions of the DKE House. The college is again investing \$60,000 into the DKE House this summer, incrementally improving our facility. Work scheduled for this summer includes:

- Roof repair & shutter replacement
- Repainting first floor and stairwells
- Upgraded water pump and flushers for the third floor urinals
- Recessing wires for TV in first floor common area above fireplace.

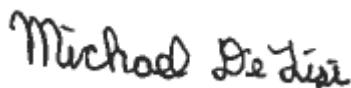
- Rewiring outside front and back lights under the balconies
- Miscellaneous repairs in Main Bar including leaks and drainage system surrounding house
- Price increasing capacity of laundry facilities for enhancement in future years

Over the past two years, we invested in new dining room tables and a refrigerator, drawing down from our capital account with the college. We began discussing with the college a more substantial renovation of the DKE House to 1) Ensure student safety 2) Bring the building up to the standards expected of 21st century students of Lafayette and their parents and 3) Preserve the DKE living experience we remember so fondly for our current and future members. Our positive working relationship with Lafayette administrators, the college's recognition of the achievements of our undergraduates, our continued strength in recruitment, and the joint investments in the DKE House by our alumni and the college in recent years are indications DKE is positioned for continued success on campus.

A key initiative moving forward is to update our corporate structure and bylaws to provide continuity of leadership, retain institutional knowledge, and carry our momentum forward. This necessitates expanding the number of active volunteers in the Rho House Association. Two committees we decided to form are the Investment and Financial Policy Committee and the Public Relations Committee, which covers outreach to parents of actives, our alumni membership, and the campus community. Draft descriptions of the roles and responsibilities of these committees are available on our website www.rhodke.org under the About Us page. If you have feedback or would like to volunteer, please contact me or bring questions to Homecoming.

I invite you all to the DKE House for our annual meeting at Homecoming on Saturday, October 22, 2011. We are working closely with the college to make Homecoming, particularly the experience at the DKE House and on March Field, welcoming and enjoyable for our alumni. Friday night we are hosting a pre-reception at the DKE House for all DKE attendees of the Marquis Founders Dinner. We will send additional details on our Homecoming plans via e-mail as the date approaches. Please update your e-mail contact information with the college to ensure you receive this information. I look forward to seeing everyone on March Field this fall.

In the Bonds,



Michael De Lisi '03 Rho House Association, President

"Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs even though checkered by failure, than to rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy nor suffer much because they live in the gray twilight that knows neither victory nor defeat"

- Brother Theodore Roosevelt, Alpha/Harvard '80

UNDERGRAD NEWS

Dekes made the dean's list (semester GPA above 3.6):

Baldwin, Gregory '12
Eckelmann, David '13
Gordon, Scott '12
Kavulich, Ryan '11
Montecallo, Robert '11
O'Brien, Andrew '13
Piette, Jared '12
Stern, William '12
Uzenoff, Andrew '12

Dekes hold the following scholarships & academic positions:

Gregory Baldwin—Marquis Scholar
Lenny Nguyen—Tutor in Chemistry
Andrew O'Brien—Marquis Scholar
Jared Piette—Trustee Scholar
Michael Rupolo—Jeffrey B. Havens Memorial Award, ECE Award for non-traditional summer learning

Dashiell Schwartz—Pi Mu Epsilon (National Mathematics Honor Society), Tutor in Math
William Stern—Trustee Scholar
Andrew Uzenoff—Member of Omicron Delta Epsilon (International Economics Honor Society)

Dekes hold the following leadership positions on campus:

Gregory Baldwin, KIC Coordinator of Landis Center
Adam Block, Secretary of Sports Business Management Club (SBMC)
Andrew Casey, President of Club Baseball
Thomas Miglietta, Gilbert's Chair of LAF
Stewart Morel, VP of SBMC
Jared Piette, Executive Committee of LAF, Philanthropy Director of IFC, and Student Conduct Committee
Morgan Pinter, Music Director of The Chorduroys (male A Cappella Group)
William Stern, Issues & Culture Chair of LAF

THE TREASURER'S REPORT

Dear Brothers,

After another year that saw some fraternities at Lafayette struggle, DKE has grown stronger. We completed the first year under our new lease with the school and the results are overwhelmingly positive. Our agreement with the school is one of a kind and lays the groundwork for a sustainable, successful relationship for the long term. This holds not just for DKE, but for all Greek organizations; as evidence, our agreement is already being used to define the relationship between the school and another fraternity.

There were a few details that needed to be addressed to create the living environment Rho DKEs are accustomed to, and the school has been reasonable in our discussions. Mike and I sat down with the administration in June and have tentative agreement on the small changes still to be made. The undergraduates had to adapt to many changes and I commend them for working with us through this period of transition. They are now positioned to thrive after having been alleviated of responsibilities that should have been the schools' all along, and empowered to make many of their own decisions. With the new operating lease in place to ensure our long term financial sustainability, we are moving onto the next financial priorities that will allow us to achieve the ambitious agenda Mike has laid out in his piece.

The first step in this process is to establish and publish financial statements for the Rho House Association. My goal is to have these prepared for review in the fall of 2011. We are setting our fiscal year to align with that of the college, so year ending financials would be available. Next, we will establish a formal investment strategy for our assets that match our risks with our liabilities, and create a capital plan that will keep the house at a level of quality in line with the expectations of 21st century students of Lafayette College. Finally, we will establish financial tools and processes for (and in consultation with) the undergraduate members to enable them to budget and prepare financial plans to achieve their goals. All of these tasks are to fulfill our broad initiative to institutionalize the way Rho DKE does business at the undergraduate and alumni levels.

I'm very excited with the progress we made this past year, and for the plans to come in the near future. We're positioning DKE to be the model of a modern fraternity, while maintaining all the attributes that make us great. I ask that you show your support for our great fraternity by paying your Rho House Association dues, making a sinking fund contribution, and donating to our capital account with the school. Your financial support is the sole source of income for our House Association and is therefore vital to our success. You can find details on how these funds are spent and how you can make these contributions on Pages 3 & 5 of this newsletter.

As always, I welcome any thoughts and feedback and am happy to address any questions or concerns you may have. Please contact me using the information on page 1 of this newsletter.

In the Bonds,
Peter Carlson '02

ALUMNI DONATIONS

DUES & SINKING FUND CONTRIBUTIONS

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 *The Rho News* and other mailings and announcements, house property insurance, philanthropy, our website, House Association sponsored events, and other administrative expenses. Please make checks payable to: Rho House Association, and send c/o our Treasurer,

Peter Carlson, 3026 Wayne Road, Falls Church, VA 22042

See page 5 for information on tax deductible capital gifts



DELTA KAPPA EPSILON FRATERNITY HOUSE.

OPENING UP THE OLD DKE HOUSE

by
Dana T. Hughes, Rho, '49

This story is a prequel to the excellent series of the early '50s recently penned by Brother Don Ayers.

First let me set the scene. I was among 86 high-point, combat veterans to enter a special class which Lafayette started in early November, 1945, to catch up with the freshmen of the already formed Class of 1949.

Pre-WWII, Lafayette had been a small men's school, closely oriented to the Presbyterian Church, of some 1500 students. But, when we arrived, the Campus was al-

most deserted after being relinquished by the Army's pre-training program (ASTP) for Air Cadets earlier in the year. Frankly, the school was starving for students, or practically none of our Special 1945 Veteran's Class would ever have qualified for admission.

Soon after settling in on Campus, I started meeting other high-point Marines. Among them was Andy Olinger, who asked me to join him and several other Marines as Zete (Zeta Psi) pledges.

However, my first room mate at top of Old McKeen Hall was Joe Trickett, who had already pledged DKE. Although a recent high school graduate, Joe was a very mature football player and had already met a number of the newly-arrived veterans. He soon introduced me to several other good guys--combat veterans--who were already members of his pledge class. They included Marine Jim Schultz; Air Force Pilot, Charlie Brownie; and Navy Blimp Pilot, Jim Mott. So, after being invited, I decided to join them as the newest member of the DKE pledge class. The four of us soon became such good friends that we roomed together in a first floor suite at the tiny, old dorm: Newkirk Hall. Over looking the, then, much larger Quad, this delightful living experience couldn't have been much different than veterans of that time saw in the days immediately following the Civil War.

Our large pledge class of some 12-15 recent prep/high school grads, mixed in with about an equal number of older combat veterans, was the first group of DEKEs to open up the Old House after it had been evacuated as a barracks by the Army ASTP program.

As can be seen by the various existing photographs, the House was of English Tudor design with broad exposed beams prominently built into the exterior architecture. A delightful and much-used feature was a two-sided, wrap around open porch. The front, built very close to Sullivan Lane, faced the rear of the Phi Delt (Phi Delta Theta) House, while the side looked out on, then, much more extensive March Field.

Describing the old house further: From the front door, one entered a large reception hall which faced a broad set of stairs leading up to the second floor. To the left was a small card/sitting room with a side door leading out to March Field. Proceeding through this area was an extensive living room/meeting area with a large, open stone fireplace at the back end.

Going back to the entry hall, to the right was a billiard room complete with a full-sized pool table still in surprisingly good condition. To the left of this room was a dining area large enough to accommodate the entire house membership in one sitting. This lead to a small operations kitchen used chiefly as a serving, dish washing and china/glassware storage cabinets.

To complete this description, upstairs was a broad center hall faced with about six study/bedroom suites. At the end, this lead to the tiled-shower/toilet room on the left facing the small house office area. Oddly, this contained a row of upright filing cabinets still filled with copies of various 1940-through '43 subject exams. Proceeding straight through was "The Kennel", which--at one time--must've been an addition to the original house. This was a quiet refuge off by itself, which housed a study area large enough for four desks and led into a bunk room accommodating four, two-up bunks. All very comfortable . . . A military barracks it was not.

Leading up from the second-floor hall was another set of stairs to the third floor. Here were located four more, fairly-large living/study suites, as well a second shower room .

including Perchill and “Waxy” Baron--who had obtained earlier discharges--and with no thought of rank, privilege nor standing, our large pledge class quickly turned to, although it was truly hard to know where to begin.

Members, among the veterans were, the four of us previously mentioned, as well as Don Diebler, our huge heavy lifter. The freshman already on campus included: Joe Trickett, Johnny Wynn, Tex Roland, Dick Heller, Dave Luesenhop, Bill Bruckman, Doc German and Ralph McGee.

We quickly decided to throw open all doors and windows to air out the House. By the next morning, the cold, early December air did freshen out the House, but it sure make things rather brisk inside. Fortunately, the heating plant was still operable. How-ever, with little money among us to pay for it, and no treasury, we needed a tank of oil. As with paint and other supplies, we had to take up a collection.

We decided as our first task to tackle the ground floor. This meant really hard work cleaning up, waxing and polishing the tiled floors in the front hall, dining area and service kitchen and, then, trying to vacuum the filthy, badly worn and mauled carpets in all of the other rooms. This became such a hopeless task that we wound up trashing all of them. The same was true of most of the upholstered furniture in the card and living rooms. However, the long dining tables were still serviceable and, with much elbow grease, we were able to do a satisfactory job in the service kitchen. However, our engineering experts had a really rough job repairing the dumb waiter leading down to the cooking kitchen in the basement. Apparently, some Army genius had tried to ride in it!

After cleaning up as best we could, the next job was filling and sanding all of the holes in the plaster walls---and even some of the ceilings, including the long stairwell. Looked as though the Army recruits must’ve held rock fights in the place. Fortunately, they didn’t use hand grenades!

Filling, sanding and painting such a larger area sounds like a daunting job, but it’s surprising how much can be accomplished by 25-30 willing hands, each giving up all of the free time they can spare. As a result, we managed to get the place in a worn but livable condition by the end of December.

Fortunately, along about this time we were rescued by our own guardian angel. He arrived in the form of Ben Haytock, a Deke lawyer practicing in Easton. Ben came in, surveyed our work to date, and carefully examined the existing furniture and bare wood floors. Then--by some minor miracle--he found a way to replace all of the sofas, upholstered chairs and missing carpets on the first floor. As we watched each of the furniture trucks unloading, suddenly by mid-January, ’46, WE WERE REALLY LIVING!

The second and third floors proved much easier. We group cleaned and refurbished the halls and shower rooms, which were of glazed tile and, thus, relatively easy to clean up. However, each designated suite occupant agreed to fill and repaint the walls and ceilings of their own study/bed rooms. While in deplorable condition, so that new mattresses had to be bought by each occupant, both the metal-built bedsteads and study desks were still in relatively good shape.

Now, the Old Deke House was once, again, in full operation and rapidly regaining its pre-War position as THE leader on Campus. BUT, I haven’t yet mentioned the kitchen which was located in the basement. This was till an unbelievably-disgusting mess: stove, sinks, working counters, walls, ceiling covered with thick layers of congealed grease and deep, black-smoke covered filth!

I don’t quite know how it happened, but I wound up as straw boss responsible for the kitchen clean up.

To continue reading visit <http://rhodke.org> under the “Rho News Archive.”

(Continued from page 3)

DKE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT ACCOUNT

Donations to our capital improvement account with Lafayette College are tax deductible and count towards the Marquis Society. These funds are used to purchase capital for our chapter house such as the dining room tables and refrigerator purchased in the last few years. We plan to replace common area furniture in the near future.

To contribute to this account, when donating to Lafayette College, write “For DKE” on the memo line of the check, or in the comments box of the online giving form. This will route your donation to our capital improvement account. Please inform our Treasurer, Peter Carlson, so he can confirm it posts to our account.

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

ALUMNI NEWS

Steven Galagarza '01 and his fiance Katie Maxfield welcomed their son Kai into the world on June 30th. Michael Amatan-gelo '02 and his wife Kelly '01 welcomed their son Michael into the world on July 10th. Steven Rosen '02 and his wife Abigail were married on October 23rd, 2010 and welcomed their first child, Hannah, on July 20th, 2011. Scott Reynolds '02 and his wife Jeanmarie were married on July 16th, 2011.

PLEASE SEND ANY UPDATES FOR THE NEXT RHO NEWS TO: RHONEWS@RHODKE.ORG



Rho Dekes in front of the DKE House at Reunion June 11, 2011

THE RHO NEWS

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