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February 2005



THETA PI NEWS

www.thetapi.com

Theta-Pi Zeta of Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity at Gettysburg College



Alumni President's Report

By Gregg Padovano '93

A Situation We Must Address

I am happy to report that our alumni association is getting stronger each and every day. Our undergraduate chapter is comprised of an amazing group of men who are involved in numerous social, scholastic and athletic organizations throughout campus and the community. The chapter has maintained the highest male Greek GPA since recolonization. Our undergraduate numbers are strong, and the chapter works hard to ensure that we recruit and initiate quality members. I encourage every alumnus to stop by the house whenever you have the chance. I am sure you will be as impressed with the undergraduates as I am.

Fortunately, the alumni housing corporation is fiscally stronger than ever. However, our chapter will be facing the financial challenge imposed by the college's Life Safety Initiative, discussed in the article by vice president **Mark Trudeau '92** elsewhere in this issue. The Life Safety Initiative is a challenge we must address together. There are other fraternities on campus

actually considering selling their chapter houses to the college because they believe they cannot afford the renovations that will be required under the Life Safety Initiative. I wish to make it clear that Lambda Chi Alpha is not one of those chapters: We are *not* considering turning over the chapter house.

The alumni housing corporation's officers are working very hard to preserve ownership of the chapter house, but we need your help. The housing corporation is currently compiling cost estimates associated with the Life Safety Initiative. I can assure you the costs will be substantial. However, the monetary costs associated with installing fire sprinklers and alarms pale in comparison with the value of an undergraduate member's life. There is no price that can be put on that. Therefore, it is likely fund-raising efforts will commence during the spring. I am confident that, through strong alumni support, we will meet the Life Safety

(Continued on Page 3)

House Corporation Report

By Mark Trudeau '92, Housing Corporation Vice President

Meeting the Challenge of the Life Safety Initiative

When I am back on the campus of Gettysburg College and walk toward 113 West Broadway, I sometimes feel as if 12 years haven't really gone by and everything looks the same to me. But looks can be deceiving.

Things have changed since many of us graduated from Gettysburg, both on campus and in society in general. As many of you know, liability and risk management issues are much

more at the forefront of all aspects of our lives than they were in the past. One way

this is directly impacting the undergraduate brotherhood of Theta Pi Zeta is the college's requirement that, in the not-too-distant future, our chapter comply with their new Life Safety Initiative (LSI).

The LSI is many things but, boiled down, it will require the installation of a modern, state-of-the-art sprinkler and fire alarm system. A review of our existing house layout — as well as of the HVAC, plumbing and electrical systems — will also take place. While this will not require renovations as all-encompassing as that which took place in the 1990s, it is a significant undertaking that will require a good deal of time and funding to complete.

The housing corporation, alumni association, general fraternity and undergraduate brotherhood, as well as the college administration, are committed to meeting the challenge of install-

(Continued on Page 3)



Big Screen TV, Leather Sofas

By Matthew Denholtz

Last spring the brothers of the Theta Pi Chapter of Lambda Chi Alpha made a significant material addition to the house with the purchase of four leather sofas. The two three-seaters and two loveseats arrived just in time for the graduating seniors to enjoy them briefly before they left. The brothers who remained in the house for the summer broke them in, and everyone was pleased with the purchase when they returned to campus in the fall.

The sofas were a nice addition to the TV the brotherhood purchased last fall.

"The living room has become a strong selling point among recruits and parents," said senior **Matt Denholtz**. With the 52" widescreen HD-TV and the classy furniture, the living room has become a great place to get together for the brothers and guests. The sofas and the TV were paid for through the home improvement budget, which is supplied in part by the housing corporation and in part by brotherhood dues. ■

Theta Pi Needs a High Pi

Have you been looking for a fulfilling opportunity to give back to G'burg? Or to Theta Pi? The alumni association is actively searching for a new high pi to replace **Dan McGill '92**, who is bravely serving overseas in the armed forces.

The high pi is an important bridge between the undergraduate chapter and the housing corporation/alumni association. The high pi, along with members of the alumni advisory committee, provides wisdom and stability to the undergraduate chapter from year to year as new members join and seniors graduate.

This position provides the opportunity to work with men as they mature and grow, helping develop new generations of men who believe in the worthy ideals of the Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity. To learn more about what the high pi position entails, or its obligations and expectations, please contact housing corporation president **Gregg Padovano '93** at 201-573-1810 or GPadovano@beattielaw.com, or corporation secretary **Douglas Walo** at 781-771-6142 or DouglasJWalo@hotmail.com. ■

Theta Pi Chapter Operations

Theta Pi Chapter Operations

By Donald Lustenberger

Keeping tabs on chapter programming, membership involvement and long-term goals is not an easy task for an active chapter 49 members strong, and with approximately four years of experience. Thus far, however, our organizational structure as a chapter has been effective in making sure that what we do is in line with our mission statement and the ideals espoused in our rituals.

Our high zeta meets weekly not only to schedule events but to hold discussions on long-term chapter goals in light of our values. Some Zeta officers charged with programming events have "Zeta forces" — or committees — used as resources for planning and executing events.

We have a risk management task force that meets weekly to ensure that proper safety measures are taken at social events and around the house. Our executive committee meets once a week to discuss finances, scholarship and brotherhood involvement. The committee regularly checks up on officer standards and has been thoroughly evaluating existing policies to ensure the chapter runs smoothly and efficiently for years to come. ■

Recent Campus Awards for Theta Pi

Best New Member GPA: Spring 2001, Fall 2003, Spring 2003, Fall 2004

Greek Week Champion: 2002, 2003

Highest Greek Term GPA: Fall 2002, Spring 2003, Fall 2003, Spring 2004, Fall 2004

Most Improved Chapter: 2002

Outstanding Philanthropy & Community Service: 2003

Holiday House Decorating (1st place): 2002, 2003, 2004

Theta Pi Chapter Operations

By Douglas Stuart

The Lessons of Impact Leadership

Impact Leadership is Lambda Chi Alpha's premier leadership development program offered to provide the skills necessary to be effective leaders in the fraternity and beyond. I was privileged to graduate from the first three levels and was accepted to participate in Level 4 in Indianapolis over a weekend in February 2004, with the generous monetary and moral support of Theta Pi Zeta behind me.

Level 4 is unlike all other levels, in that the training is no longer in the classroom; rather, it involves a simulation of a fraternity with problems requiring all participants to assume various roles and work together toward a common goal.

My intense experience was everything I was expecting and more. Along with a small group, including five members from different chapters, I became a member

and officer of the simulated fraternity Alpha Sigma Delta (ASD) on a hypothetical campus.

We were assigned the primary responsibilities of holding elections among ourselves, formulating a five-year plan, organizing a community service event for all conference participants and having our own brotherhood event, all in the span of less than 36 hours.

The catch was the simulated problems we encountered along the way, including negative press, underage drinking, sexual assault, academic difficulties and the threat of losing our chapter, all derived from real Lambda Chi Alpha chapters' experiences and which required us to step outside our comfort zones and address the problems by dealing with irate administrators and community members.

After approximately 27 hours of work in two days with no more than five hours of sleep, the six members of ASD presented a five-year plan to a board of Lambda Chi Alpha staff serving as simulated administrators of our imaginary campus, and who would hear our course of action and determine whether or not our chapter would be closed.

With the presentation, our six members successfully accomplished the goals of Impact Leadership and joined an elite group of 88 other men over the seven-year history of the program. I'm proud to have been the second Theta Pi Zeta man in recent years to have joined this elite group, with brother **Doug Ritter '03**, and hope others may take the opportunity to experience the invaluable lessons of brotherhood and life, simulated or not. ■

Alumni Get-Together at NYC Bar 'Be Good or Be Gone'

So reads the plaque above the bar at McSorley's Ole Ale House. Recently this New York City landmark turned 150 years old, and the brothers of Lambda Chi Alpha were on hand to celebrate. Realizing a need for more alumni interaction, the housing corporation board of Theta Pi Zeta will be coordinating regional events that alumni can attend to reconnect with other alumni living in the area. The McSorley's outing was the first in what will hopefully be a successful program of reuniting classmates and of meeting brothers from classes different from your own.

Nestled along a quiet street in the East Village, McSorley's hasn't changed much in 150 years. The beer is still served in two varieties — light and dark — and they come two at a time. The walls are adorned with old pictures and yellowing newspapers, giving visitors the impression they're walking through history as they trek across the sawdust-covered floor on their way to the communal tables in the back. In a bar that measures its history in decades, the only additions are that women are now served (courtesy of a 1970 Supreme Court decision) and the No Smoking signs mandated by Mayor Bloomberg. The old coal-burning fireplace still radiates heat, keeping comfortable the cats lying nearby. The bartenders actually remember you, and they carry your group's beers 20 at a time.

The recent festivities began at noon on a Saturday. The brothers in attendance were **Sean Harlin '96, Nick Morse '01, Jason Straczewski '01, Jack Nightingale '95, Andrew Congleton '95, Anthony Dolce '98, Bryant Pappas '95, Sean**

Basquill '96, Tim Lydon '95 and me. Including brothers, friends, wives and girlfriends, we ensured that we commanded the attention of our faithful server. Everyone had a good time. Conversation topics ranged from politics, to children, to sports, to the civil rights of people detained by police, to unfortunate accidents involving mosquitoes, and more. Even when discussions became heated — as discussions about politics often do in a large group of people from different backgrounds — they were quickly defused with a hilarious comment or a timely transition into an amusing anecdote. By the end of the evening, we all parted as the best of friends and were already talking about our next outing.

Speaking for myself, outings such as this are what unite us as a brotherhood. We all come from different backgrounds, are at different stages in our lives, and may not have even been at Gettysburg during the same time as the other people who were sitting around the table with us. However, the brotherhood that united us in college still binds us today. Regardless of which years you were there, who doesn't have a story involving cooking late at night in the kitchen, Secret Santa or hanging out in the basement when XYZ happened? These are the types of experiences that bring us together as a brotherhood, and the types of memories we are trying to rekindle.

Be on the lookout for future Lambda Chi Alpha alumni events this spring in Fells Point, Maryland, and in New York City. ■

House Corporation Report

(Continued from Page 1)

ing the infrastructure needed to satisfy the college's requirements on this issue and, more important, to better safeguarding the brothers living in the house, their guests and personal property, as well as the house itself.

As vice president of the housing corporation, I am organizing a committee of individuals willing to use their time, knowledge and resources to assist us in making the correct decisions on behalf of the entire brotherhood, so that we may successfully implement the LSI in a timely and cost-efficient manner. Personally, I have no specialized knowledge regarding fire suppression and alarm systems or other building-code issues that may arise. Thus, I am asking that any brother with such experience who is willing to get involved to *please contact me at 973-886-1180 or by e-mail at mtrudeau_95@yahoo.com.*

Equally important to reaching our goals will be an effective fund-raising campaign to raise money solely related to meeting the LSI standards. Any brothers who would like to volunteer in any

capacity for such a fund-raising campaign would also be greatly appreciated.

Fires have occurred with some frequency over the last several years at several colleges, most notably at Seton Hall University where several students died in a dormitory and more than 60 others required medical treatment. The successful implementation of the LSI will help us greatly decrease the likelihood of such a tragedy occurring at our chapter house.

Updates on this matter will occur over the next several years, as the project progresses. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have or to volunteer. Through our collective efforts as a brotherhood — undergraduates and alumni alike — we will successfully meet our chapter's latest challenge, protect our undergraduate members more effectively and demonstrate that commitment to the brotherhood of Lambda Chi Alpha is "not for four years, but for life." ■

Alumni President Report

(Continued from Page 1)

Initiative challenge. We will preserve our chapter house and help protect the lives of our undergraduate members or, as I like to think of them, future alumni.

I hope every alumnus will come back to the house during the college's upcoming Alumni Weekend on June 2-5. The alumni housing corporation is planning a big weekend filled with several events including a luncheon. More information and formal invitations will be mailed during the next few months.

I encourage every alumnus to get involved and stay informed about your fraternity. Please do not hesitate to contact me or drop me an e-mail at GPadovano@beattielaw.com. I look forward to hearing from you and to seeing you at the house in June. ■

Upcoming Events

June 2-5, 2005

Gettysburg College Reunion Weekend

June 4, 2005, 3:00 p.m.

Reception to be announced

Alumni UpDates

Richard A. Mitchell '62

(615 Niblick Ln., Wallingford, PA 19086; joycemitch6151@comcast.net) I relocated my legal practice in June 2001 and bought the building I am now in.

Robert C. Blomberg '76

(31 Wanders Dr., Hingham, MA 02043; rcbloomberg@comcast.net) I keep busy with work and family activities including coaching my 12-year-old son, Drew, and 10-year-old son, Matt, in basketball and baseball. My older son's baseball team went 25-1 last summer and is off to Cooperstown for the National Field of Dreams Tournament in July, where they will compete against 63 other teams from across the country. I see **Kevin Carson '76** daily and work with him on many projects. For those of us in the class of '76: This is our big year when we turn 50. Happy birthday to all!

Donald L. Lehr '77

(40 Hazel Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15228-2146) I was pleased to visit the house last alumni weekend, in May 2004. It was kind of weird being the "old guy," checking things out and talking with the undergraduate members. I was surprised to see that beer pong had been reduced to using no paddles.

Bob Palmer '87

My wife, Sheila, and I welcomed our third child, Elsie, in September. My family and I live and work in Radnor, Pa., where I invest equity in private businesses for Spring Capital (www.springcap.com).

Eric Toburen '87

(213 Candlewood Way, Harleysville, PA 19438) I recently began working at Genilogix, an IT consulting company focused on manufacturers' production systems. Grace and I have three children.

Dave Utley '87

(31700 Corte Esparza, Temecula, CA 92592; fitkid@juno.com) I own two gyms in San Diego with brother **Scott Horton '87**. I was married last March. My home number is 909-302-7736. I would love to catch up with my old classmates. The toilet seat still fits!

Michael H. Mayone '88

(125 Saddle Hill Rd., Stamford, CT 06903-2307; mmayone@aol.com) I am now with Ernst & Young; spent a year in Zurich, Switzerland, and had an excellent time. What's up with **Matt Mahoney '91** and **Rick Krause '89**?

Dan McGill '92

My wife, Rhoda, and I had our first child born last April 14 in Europe. The baby is a girl and named Madeline Lily. She was 7 pounds and 14 ounces, and 21.5 inches long with a full head of hair.

Mike Albano '93

I finished my second novel, "Room 201, Second Floor," to be released this spring.

Ray Truex '94

My wife, Jen, and I are expecting our second child, who is due in February.

Mack Farquhar '03

I was recently engaged to Becky Malinowski ('04). A June 2005 wedding is being planned. I have been working as a college counselor and admissions associate at my high school alma mater, Whitfield School in St. Louis.

Kip Jones '03

I am an assistant editor at Penny Publications, a magazine publishing company in Norwalk, Conn. I'm in the process of applying to graduate school at New York University to get an M.S. in publishing management.

Steve Kareha '03

I am currently enrolled in the doctor of physical therapy program at Arcadia University, where I'll graduate in February 2006. Jen Ensley and I are amidst lots of planning for our wedding this May.

Kyle Marshall '03

I recently moved to Somerville, Mass. I work at the Massachusetts Agency Against Compulsive Gambling as the helpline and volunteer specialist.

Jeff McGowan '03

I have been working as an admissions officer at Drew University in Madison, N.J., since August.

Doug Ritter '03

I have been working in the Office of Greek Life at Gettysburg College, after the recent departure of **Dennis Murphy**. He's living with Kathryn Turner in Gettysburg and actively pursuing a bigger and better career move!

J.D. Walo '03

(DouglasJDWalo@hotmail.com) I'm happy to announce my wedding to Katherine Greenwood ('04). We are living in a small ranch in my hometown of Rockland, Mass. I am currently working in financial aid at Harvard Law School and considering an M.A. in higher education administration from Harvard's School of Education. ■

NS 06-12 260

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GETTYSBURG**Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity**

*A life safety challenge we must address
head on: See inside!*

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