

## Upcoming Events

June 1-4, 2006

### Gettysburg College Alumni Weekend 2006 Reunion

Classes of 1951, 1956, 1961,  
1966, 1971, 1976, 1981,  
1986, 1991, 1996

The Theta-Pi Alumni Association Executive Board is still working out its plans for the weekend, but expect it to be bigger and better than ever! There will likely be a few smaller "come as you please" events and one big signature event. More information will be sent out in the spring. If you have any suggestions or ideas, please contact secretary **Douglas J.D. Walo '03** at [DouglasJDWalo@gmail.com](mailto:DouglasJDWalo@gmail.com) or 781-771-6142.

### Summer 2006

### Annual Joint Alumni, Undergraduates and Parents Work Weekend

As was done last year, the chapter is planning to hold a house work weekend. All alumni and parents of undergraduate members will be invited to come back to get to know some of the brothers while working to improve the Theta-Pi house for the future. (The 2005 projects involved painting the basement and installing lampposts in the yard.) More information and dates will be published in our spring newsletter. ■

December 2005

# THETA PI NEWS

[www.thetapi.com](http://www.thetapi.com)

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



## Alumni President's Report

By Mark Trudeau '92

### We Can All Be Proud of the Chapter

Brothers,

I hope this newsletter finds you all doing well as the year roars by and into the holiday season. For the benefit of those who don't know me, I am, as of this past June, the alumni association president. Previously I was the vice president and before that served on the executive board, including during the exciting recolonization of our chapter in 2002.

From my observations of the undergraduate chapter, things are definitely looking up; however, challenges remain. Because the chapter is, among other things, "active" (both internally and on campus), I think it is one of which all alumni can be proud, and the type of house we would like to join ourselves or have our sons join.

The alumni association is, and has been, committed to providing a safe environment for our undergraduate members, allowing them to have the fraternal experiences we would all wish for them, while still allowing them the independence to run and maintain the physical structure. This type of opportunity is unparalleled for most college students who are not members of Greek organizations, and is an excellent way for today's Theta-Pi Zeta members to learn and practice self reliance and leadership.

Many of you already know that within the next several years, all fraternities at Gettysburg will be required to install sprinkler and fire-alarm systems to protect the lives of the undergraduate brothers and their guests, pursuant to the Life Safety Initiative (LSI). Preliminary estimates are in excess of \$100,000, which, while certainly not a small amount, is far less than what many other chapters on campus will be required to expend to comply with new Commonwealth of Pennsylvania standards. A major campaign to raise the funds for this and other capital improvements to the house should get into full swing during 2006. Keep checking for updates on this important process that is designed to ensure a safe legacy for us on the Gettysburg College campus.

I am pleased to serve as president of this organization and am always open to suggestions from fellow brothers. If you have any input you would like to offer regarding our capital campaign, the LSI program or the general operations of the alumni association, I urge you to contact me at 973-886-1180 or [mtrudeau\\_95@yahoo.com](mailto:mtrudeau_95@yahoo.com).

As always, like with all other volunteer organizations, more volunteers are welcome, and any involvement by alumni is encouraged both by the board and the undergraduate chapter. I thank you for your continued interest in Theta-Pi Zeta, and I will be in contact with you in the future. ■

## Happy Holidays from the Lambda Chi Alpha Alumni Association and Theta-Pi Zeta

Well - the votes are in for this year's Holiday Decoration Contest and the Office of Greek Organizations is proud to announce Lambda Chi Alpha as the **Holiday Decoration Winners for 2005!!!** Lambda Chi Alpha will receive funding for an in-house pizza party from the Office of Greek Organizations in the Spring 2006 semester. **Congratulations!!**



# Alumni Weekend

## 2005 Alumni Weekend a Success

More than 40 alumni brothers and their families, spreading across six decades, returned to Gettysburg for Alumni Weekend 2005 this past June. **Thornton Smith '50** represented the earliest decade present, while the current undergraduate members represented the classes of 2004-06. The classes of 1960 and 1965 had the largest contingents, with 10-12 brothers from each.

Brothers came and went from the Theta-Pi house all weekend, but everyone made it back for the Saturday afternoon gathering. The theme — "One Past. One Present. One Future." — was certainly appropriate as alumni brothers recalled stories of Theta-Pi from when they were attending Gettysburg College and living in the house.

The undergraduate members were excited for the opportunity to hear the stories of Theta-Pi's past and to speak of

the chapter's successes today. Also, **Mark Trudeau '92** and **Gregg Padovano '93** informed all present of Gettysburg College's Life Safety Initiative, which represents an important step in protecting our undergraduate brothers in the future.

As happens during every alumni weekend, the slate of alumni association executive officers was announced. This year there were a few significant changes. Gregg Padovano stepped down as president after having led Theta-Pi through a successful recolonization and planting the seeds for the continued success of the chapter. Gregg will remain involved with the board as the immediate past president. Mark Trudeau has assumed the presidency, while **Troy Cassel '02** will take on the challenges of vice president. **Chris Nonas '94** and **Douglas Walo '03** will continue as treasurer and secretary, respectively. ■



*Left: Alumni gather near the bar, glad to be together to reminisce and catch up on each other's lives.*



*Below: Getting ready for a round of pool.*



*Above: A gift for outgoing alumni president **Gregg Padovano '93**.*

*Right: The proud alumni of Theta-Pi.*



## The Fraternity Is in Good Hands

Fall 2005 brought exciting changes to Theta-Pi Zeta, while also upholding the fraternity's commitment to excellence in academics, integrity and brotherly love.

Evidence that the fall would be successful was first seen this summer. Over a weekend in July, several undergraduate brothers, alumni and parents gathered at the house for a work weekend, organized by house manager **David Gibbons**. Among the major projects, we installed two lampposts on the front lawn to give



Brothers work hard fixing up the basement.

peace of mind to brothers and their friends. We have received compliments both from neighbors and the Safety and Security Office about the lights, since

our section of Broadway Street is rather dark. The basement was another scene of improvement — it was painted green and white with gold trim.

There were light moments to the weekend as well. Several brothers had been working for hours, digging a trench for the electrical wires for the lamps, when senior brother **Rick Bartol** showed up. In no time at all, Rick "The Body" Bartol had grabbed a shovel and dug that trench.

The weekend also was sad in that it was the last opportunity, at least for a year or two, for the brothers to see recent graduate **Aaron Dilliplane '05**, who departed in July to spend up to two years teaching English in Japan. (He has been joined by **Joseph Susco '05**.)

As soon as the brothers had moved back into the house, it seemed like rush was upon us. Thanks to the efforts of all brothers, but in particular our high delta, **Kellen Dwyer**, rush week was a tremendous success. On September 11, 19 young men took the oath of associate membership, and on October 22 they were initiated. The excellence of these young men is high. They come from various backgrounds (including as far away as California), majors (from biochemistry to film studies) and extracurricular activities (CAB, Cheers, track, student senate and many more), but they all have one thing in common: a commitment to the ideals of Lambda Chi Alpha.

Not to be outdone by their younger brothers, the upperclassmen continue to be leaders in campus life and in the classroom. Senior Kellen Dwyer received a score of 175 out of 180 (99th percentile) on his LSAT this June. He is currently applying to law schools such as Yale, Harvard and Stanford. Seniors **David Crumplar** and I are candidates for the Fulbright Scholarship sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. Junior **Jeremy Meehan** and sophomore **Geoffrey Crampton** were elected president and vice president of the IFC, respectively.

Community service continues to be a hallmark of the Theta-Pi Zeta experience. In addition to participating on their own (such as with after-school tutoring), brothers joined together for the fraternity's third annual 24-Hour Teeter-Totter-a-Thon (co-sponsored with Chi Omega), which proved to be a great success. In addition, the fraternity sponsored a neighborhood community workday for which the brothers helped neighbors with chores. We also participated in Habitat for Humanity and other Greek organizations' community service events.

Fraternity-wide elections are to be held soon. Regardless of who is selected for office, it can be said with confidence that each office, like the fraternity as a whole, is in good hands. At this time next year, the house will be different, the current seniors will have left us and new brothers will have joined. One thing will remain certain: The brothers of Theta-Pi Zeta will continue to "believe in the traditions, principles and ideals" of Lambda Chi Alpha. ■



Above: Preparing to install our new lampposts on the front lawn.

Right: One of our new lampposts, ready to help light the yard.



Above: The basement walls were painted green and white with gold trim.

## Alumni Updates

### Richard W. Ruesch '60

(1075 Cathermu Ave., Naperville, IL 60540; rlruesch@aol.com) I retired from Navistar Financial after 36 years and have lived in Naperville (Chicago area) for the past 25 years. I enjoy travel, golf and being with the seven grandchildren we have. Favorite memories: Amos, Mrs. B and those off-campus parties!

### Donald L. Lehr '77

(40 Hazel Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15228-2146) The old college rock band (Prime Time) has been playing for 25-year reunions. We played for a 1979 reunion with bandmates and brothers **Richard "Dick" Hollyday '79** and **George White '79** last year. This June we played for another band members

reunion for the class of 1980. Steve Pampalonia was a Sigma Chi, but don't hold that against him.

### Troy A. Geesaman '86

(1121 Woodcliff Dr., McKinney, TX 75070-8395; tkgeesaman@sbcglobal.net) I now work in the Discovery Innovation Group at Cadbury Schweppes Americas Beverages. Primarily, I lead teams that create new products for our brands like Dr. Pepper, Seven Up, Snapple and Motts. My wife Kim and I celebrated our 15th anniversary this year. We have three children: Curtis, Ellen and Natalie. I have wonderful memories of my brothers at LCA and would love to reconnect via phone, e-mail or in person. ■

## Executive Board Officers

### Installed June 2005

President

**Mark Trudeau '92**

Vice President

**Troy Cassel '02**

Treasurer

**Chris Nonas '94**

Secretary

**Douglas J.D. Walo '03**

### Executive Board Members

Immediate Past President

**Gregg Padovano '93**

Past President

**Bob Palmer '87**

Members at Large

**John Petrycki '91**

**Brian Myers '04**

**Douglas Stuart '04** ■

## Annual Fund Report

### Why Should You Support the Annual Fund?

Your support for our alumni chapter's annual fund proves your commitment to the future of Theta-Pi Zeta. **Your annual gift is an investment in the fraternity's potential to make a positive impact in the lives of young men as the fraternity did for you, me and so many of our alumni.**

Your annual contribution affirms your belief that:

- Lambda Chi Alpha still provides the best *leadership development and character building* opportunities on campus.
- The *spirit of volunteerism* that drives our alumni board and other volunteers is vital to the strength of our chapter.
- The *value of friendships* forged at Lambda Chi Alpha grows as

time passes and should be celebrated with reunions, annual gatherings and other events that bring alumni back to the place they can always call home.

Alumni contributions to the annual fund make possible the *Theta-Pi News*, event invitations and other forms of alumni communications.

You can make a donation now by:

- Filling out and returning the enclosed form.
- Calling our toll-free donation hotline at 800-975-6699.

**Your annual support is crucial to the success of our chapter and our alumni relations program.** ■

## Alumni Memories

### Moment in History

Remarks by **Donald F. Lybarger '19** on the occasion of the burning of the mortgage on March 15, 1958:

"I could tell much concerning the early days of the chapter and yet not convey to you an appreciation of the spirit which animated the founders and those who came after them. I am convinced that the real secret of our success in the chapter was founded in an unflinching friendship which manifested itself through unselfish service. There was loyalty, goodwill and a readiness to share burdens as well as benefits.

"At the start we had no well-known fraternity name, no large body of alumni, no wealth, no house in which to live. We demonstrated, nonetheless, what the founders of the fraternity system many generations ago had shown — namely, that a true fraternity is not built of brick and mortar, but is a thing of the spirit which lives in the hearts of its members." ■

### Resolve to Reconnect with LCA

It's that time of year again to start making your New Year's resolutions! For 2006, why not resolve to reconnect with Lambda Chi Alpha?

#### You could:

- Make a donation to the annual fund (see the article on page ).
- Contact five of your old Lambda Chi buddies.
- Attend a Lambda Chi event or plan a get-together of your own.
- Come back to Gettysburg and meet the undergraduate brothers.
- Get involved by volunteering for the Lambda Chi Alpha Alumni Association. ■