

THE PARAGON

Ohio Alpha Beta at Case Western Reserve University

March '97 Issue

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

By Matthew D. Ducar '98

While it has been nearly two years since we have last published an alumni newsletter, we have not forgotten about you. The last several semesters have been a difficult time for our house, but we are now on a genuine upswing. Two years ago, we were down to fifteen brothers; today we have 24 and 6 pledges. While the house is not out of the woods yet, with your help we will pull through. You are the key in the next phase of our growth. Your involvement with the house can provide us with guidance, encouragement, and ideas

In the last newsletter, we informed you about a pending lawsuit resulting from an incident that occurred in the house during the summer of '94. After a thorough investigation, our insurance company has concluded that we had taken proper precautions. The case was settled out of court this past summer for an undisclosed amount.

If you are in the Cleveland area, I encourage you to stop by and see what we have done with the house. As time and finances permit, we renovate what we can. Currently, we are setting money aside for a fire detection/suppression system. Our insurance company has deemed it necessary that we have the system installed and is charging us until we do so. Once installed, this system should

pay for itself in reduced insurance premiums.

In closing, I would like to encourage our alumni to try and seek out a renewed interest in your chapter. Your fraternity is a part of you for life!

ALUMNI AND BROTHER NEWS

Engagements:

- Matthew Nelson '95
to Krissy Patterson
- Michael J. Rossiter (Indy) '??
to MaryAnn Kay (Mak)
- Stephen M. Enseleit '97
to Jennifer D. Harris '97
(The wedding is scheduled for this summer)
- Matthew Fuhry '97
to Gigi Huang '96
- Joseph M. DiFranco '98
to Laura E. Dye '98
- Dennis Maio '98 to Kim Forberg
- Neil Pence '00
to Rachel Schassner '01

Marriages:

- Gregory and Jill Flaute
- Michael and Jennine Sheppard
- Daniel and Michele Price
- Darren and Sally Zwonitzer
- Matthew and Shelley Breen
- Joel and Jackie Zlotnick

Births:

- Benjamin Price born to Dan and Michele

- Zachary Breen born to Matt and Shelley
- Katrin-Bryn Sheppard born to Michael and Jennine Sheppard
- Lauren Michelle Maio born to Dennis Maio and Kim Forberg
- Kyle Aaron Zlotnick born to Joel and Jackie Zlotnick

FINALLY – AN ALUMNI EVENT!

By Josh Adams '97 – Alumni Chair

A long awaited alumni event is scheduled for Sunday April 20th. This event will include a bar-b-que at the house at 2 pm and, if weather permits, a golf outing earlier in the morning. Families are more than welcome; we will have both indoor and outdoor activities for all ages. If you are planning to attend, we would appreciate advance notice in order to ensure enough food for everyone. And if you wish to go golfing in the morning, it is necessary to RSVP as golfing is not subsidized by the fraternity. Hope to see you soon.

SNOWSTORM LEADS TO CHRISTENING OF PHI KAP EAST.

By David J. Marquardt '97

In late October, as we, the brothers of Phi Kappa Theta, were going about our own business, preparing for exams and workday and other things of that nature, we were dealt an unexpected twist of fate. Late one Saturday evening, it began to snow. Not that big of a deal, or so we thought.

Within a few hours, we were in the midst of a "brown-out". The condition was further worsened when our boiler decided it was time to stop working.

When the next day finally came, we sent a few brave souls out to find out exactly what had happened. We discovered that all of Magnolia Drive was out of power and heat. The university offered to give us floor space in gracious people's dorm rooms, but we decided we would prefer to be together. Therefore, the brilliant CWRU administration moved us in to Phi Kap East, A.K.A. Camp Phi Kap, A.K.A. Wade Commons.

We set up our flag, put up some letters, and in no time it was a home. We had a fire in the fireplace, Josh brought Nintendo, We discovered new ways to throw Neal into snow banks, We slept on the couches, and some even went to class!! Overall we spent three days in that place.

Later, we discovered that on that night it had snowed 24 inches. It would snow another 30 or so during the week. While it began as an inconvenience, those three days grew into something more. It was like a retreat, but with everyone there. We got away from the annoying politics and house issues, and remembered why we joined in the first place; The camaraderie. The brotherhood.

Looking back on it, that "horrible snowstorm" may have been the best thing to happen to Phi Kappa Theta in a long time.

RECENT HOUSE IMPROVEMENTS

By John Schen '97

- A new two-seater shower stall was installed in the basement bathroom. Along with this came new drywall and floor tile. New shelving to be installed on this semester's work day will complete the project.

- The big projects for this semester are installing a new ceiling above the bar in the basement, and fixing up the apartment above the garage so it is suitable for rent. The ceiling is in much need of improvement since the old one was in poor condition, and was further damaged by a leaking pipe that was recently repaired. Lighting and ceiling tiles will be installed over spring break or on the work day this March.
- The apartment is getting a complete overhaul. The water heater and pipes have been insulated and a new gas heater installed. The wood work has had the paint removed and is being stained and varnished. New carpet will be laid after the walls and ceiling are repainted. The final addition will be a replacement for the broken ceiling fan.
- We are also looking into waxing the hardwood floors on the first floor and in the hallways to protect them from wear.

RECENT RUSH OVERHAUL

By Ron P. Cuirle '98

Our entire rush system was revised last semester. Rather than having a publicized rush schedule, we divided into three rush teams. Each team had one week in which to put together one major event and several individual and small group rushes.

The reason for the revamping was due mostly to flaws in the old system. We were down below 20 members and needed to rethink our strategy. When Greek Life presented us with a possible solution on rush techniques and strategies, we took a chance.

The system we incorporated stemmed primarily from that discussion. Individual Rushing. A personalized rush seems to be working. In the two semesters that we have used this new method we have 13 new members and a 100% retention rate.

Just because we have moved away from the publicized, event crammed schedule of the past, does not mean those types of events have disappeared.

This year: 14th annual Labor Day Bash, the traditional Pizza Taste-off, and Whirly Ball.

Formal Brunch has not left the schedule either. This year, we capped off rush with that event and had a strong showing of recent alumni.

We do not foresee any need to change from the current system for quite some time.

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

By Joseph M. DiFranco '98

This past August 16-18th, Phi Kappa Theta Fraternity held its bi-annual National Leadership Conference at the Radisson Hotel City Center in Indianapolis, Indiana. Unlike any National Leadership Conference before it, this conference went back to the basics.

In the past, these leadership conferences had focused on building brotherhood, and how to maintain brotherhood in the Fraternity. This year, we went back to the fundamental ideas of what it takes to build and maintain the ideals of Phi Kappa Theta Fraternity.

The Conference was broken down into four main areas: The Fraternal Ideal, the Spiritual Ideal, the

Social Ideal, and the Intellectual Ideal. As delegates we were re-educated in these ideals, the basis of Phi Kappa Theta. We jumped right into the true meaning of our existence by performing our formal initiation ritual at St. John's Catholic Church.

Over the three days, we focused wholeheartedly on the true meanings of the Phi, Kappa, and Theta. Although I have been through four initiations and countless other meetings and events with this chapter of Phi Kappa Theta, nothing has ever opened my eyes more to the true meaning and possibilities of our Fraternity than these three days.

As the two delegates from our Ohio Alpha Beta Chapter, Brian Bacher and I were able to return to Cleveland with immeasurable knowledge for our chapter, numerous committee ideas from brothers all over the country, and immense respect for our Fraternity.

We were able to make many connections with our brothers at our National Offices, fellow chapters, and National Foundation Board. I was also able to meet one of our active alumni, Robert Stalder.

Many other chapters had a vast amount of active alumni at the Conference, and I urge any and all of you who are interested to attend the 51st Bicentennial Convention in San Diego this August.

I also urge any of our active brothers to attend any of these conferences. As well as being a wonderful experience, they are also a great way to meet other brothers from around the country, and to learn a vast amount of different approaches to running active chapters of Phi Kappa Theta Fraternity.

HISTORIAN'S SECTION

By K. Robert Desforges '00

Greetings Ohio Alpha Beta alumni. I am K. Robert Desforges, house Historian for the spring 1997 semester. The position of Historian, as you know, entails the care of composites, keeping up-to-date with the Phi Kap history book, and the recording of general house history.

As part of my duties as House Historian for this semester, I am initiating a new project; one that I believe will benefit past, present, and future Phi Kaps alike. This is the compilation of the "Historian's File", a historical record of present and past Phi Kaps spanning the years of the house.

Hopefully, this will cement the history of Phi Kappa Theta in place for future members to look back upon and share experiences, or for past members to reminisce.

As part of its construction, each active brother of the house was asked to complete a survey containing various questions pertaining to the history of the house during their stay. So far, the response has been good, and I am expecting the construction of the actual database to commence relatively soon.

However, I regret to report that past information regarding historical aspects of our chapter is next to absent. It would greatly appreciated if you could fill out and return the Historian's form on the next page.

If you would care to talk to someone in person, or want to submit your information via electronic mail, I can be reached by phone at 216-754-1443 and by e-mail at krd@po.cwru.edu

Historian's File Information Sheet

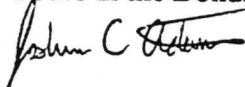
Full Name: _____ Nick Name(and why): _____
Hometown: _____ Degree and year graduated: _____
Big Brother: _____ Little Brother(s): _____
Why CWRU: _____
What was your first contact with our house?: _____
Why did you join Phi Kappa Theta? _____
Positions/Committees held in the house _____
Any other history that you know of our house that is of interest to you _____

*emailed
info 5/20/97*

Change of Address Form

Please list your current address below if it is different from the mailing address on this issue of THE PARAGON.

Yours in the Bonds,



Joshua C. Adams
Spring '97 Alumni Chair

Address: _____

E-mail address (if applicable): _____

P.S. Don't forget to check out our new homepage at <http://phikap.cwru.edu>