



DELTA RPI

Published by Delta Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Letter From The Corporation President

Delta Chapter's Success Depends On The Support Of Our Alumni

Brothers of Theta Chi:

This letter to you will provide an update of where we've been and where we are today regarding the fraternity.

When I joined the alumni board in June of 1998, Delta Chapter and the alumni corporation were in healthy financial condition. At that time we had 32 brothers living in the house and over \$100,000 in a capital improvement fund that had been built up diligently and responsibly by the board over the previous 10 years. In December 1998, a hazing incident occurred at the house, and, as a result, the chapter was reorganized by Theta Chi National. During the reorganization process, all brothers and pledges were interviewed by the national, and a large majority were suspended from the chapter. Those suspended were not allowed to live in the house nor be affiliated or participate in any chapter activities. The number of brothers living in the house was reduced to seven as of the beginning of the 1999-2000 school year. In addition, RPI had also put the chapter on suspension for one semester, which prohibited it from participating in the fall 1999 rush season.

Needless to say, it was tempting to just throw in the towel at this time, and the decision by the seven remaining brothers and the board to try to rebuild from the ground up presented a very difficult challenge. However, hard work resulted in 17 pledges being initiated in the spring of 2000 and 18 brothers living in as we entered the fall of 2000. The recently completed rush was again encouraging, and 12 individuals have pledged and should be initiated shortly. A spring rush is planned, and 18 candidates are being actively pursued to reach the goal of another 10 pledges next semester. This means the house occupancy for the fall 2001 semester should be somewhere between 30 and 35, depending on how successful the upcoming spring rush is.

From a financial point of view, once the board decided to try to revive the chapter, the board had to utilize the

capital improvement reserves to meet our financial obligations of mortgage, taxes, and utilities during the past 18 months. It is almost impossible to break even if there are not at least 30 live-ins to cover the expenses. As a result, our capital reserves have been depleted to less than \$30,000 at this time. In the next nine months, further erosion of our capital funds is anticipated. It is not until the fall of 2001, when the projected occupancy level is expected to exceed 30, that this situation will stabilize. At that point, we will be covering only our expenses, but we will no longer have the reserves to be able to handle any large maintenance items or unusual capital improvement needs.

The house needs to embark on several maintenance projects to maintain and improve the current state of livability, to make it attractive to rushees, and to keep pace with the projected increased occupancy. Increased fire safety and security items, kitchen upgrades, and electrical and plumbing work need immediate attention. These items were deferred during the recent difficult times, and all but the most pressing must continue to be deferred because of our current financial condition.

Because of all this we need to ask all Delta Chapter alumni for your help. We, as a board, need to raise money to replenish the financial resources we once had so that the current and future brothers have an adequate facility in which to continue to grow our brotherhood. Our immediate goal is to return the capital improvement fund to the \$100,000 level at which it once existed. Please respond generously in the enclosed envelope.

The undergraduate brothers have done their job in bringing the fraternity back from the lowest point in our 92-year history. Now, we as alumni have to do ours.

Fraternally,
Ray Rumanowski '73
President
Delta Theta Chi Corporation

New Board Members

Elected for terms to expire June 2004:

Lew French '83, Dan McGovern '98

Officers:

President

Ray Rumanowski '73

Vice President

F. Terry Jones '66

Secretary

Dave Thurston '88

Treasurer

Rich Boroway '73

Board Encourages Use Of Chapter Web Page

The alumni corporation board of directors at its meeting on November 12 discussed the need to begin using the Delta Chapter web page for informational purposes. Lou Gardell '96 has created the web page and continues to be willing to maintain it; we thank him for that effort. The board encourages all Delta Chapter alumni to access this web page on a regular basis for announcements and news. The board also wants to remind all alumni that this web page is a public document, and information posted on it by the board or alumni should be carefully written.

The web page address is:

<http://hometown.aol.com/OX1908/home.html>

Alumni Scholarship Program Report

Scholarships were awarded for the 2000-2001 school year to brothers Keith Bedell, John Postulka, Marc Blevins, and Nathan Doyle.

Keith Bedell is a senior from Worcester, Massachusetts. He is the current chapter president and was one of the key players in helping to bring Delta Chapter back to life. In addition, over this past summer Keith and his dad spent many hours here at the house completing many minor repairs to make the dorm rooms more livable for the new brothers who moved in this fall. Keith is an industrial and management engineering major.

John Postulka is also a senior and was instrumental in making the spring 2000 rush so successful. He is a psychology major and hails from across the river in

Watervliet. He is currently house chaplain and was previously rush chairman.

Marc Blevins is a junior who comes to RPI from Ogdensburg, New York. He is currently rush co-chairman and has put in many hours to help Delta Chapter attract an excellent group of pledges and prospective pledges this year. He is majoring in management at the Lally School.

Nate Doyle is a junior who hails from Hudson Falls, New York. He is a materials engineering major and is currently vice president of the chapter. Nate's hard work over the summer (when he was the house manager) and fall is another reason that the house is on the road to recovery.

Concerning the balance in the scholarship fund, for all the reasons cited in the letter from Ray Rumanowski (see page

one), the alumni board continues to feel that the most critical need for alumni contributions is in direct chapter support.

However, we are happy to report that the fund's market value has continued to grow due to the excellent investment performance of RPI's endowment. While the total contributions received to date (\$115,000) have not changed much since February 1999 (when the full impact of the reorganization became apparent and we put our fund-raising efforts on hold), the market value had grown to over \$195,000 as of June 30, 2000. To our knowledge, no other fraternity at RPI has anything like this program, and it speaks volumes about the way many of Delta Chapter's alumni have stepped up to give something back to their fraternity.

A DIAL

Published regularly by the Delta Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute for its members and friends. News contributions and pictures are always welcome and should be sent to Theta Chi Fraternity, Alumni Records Office, P.O. Box 906, Schenectady, NY 12301-0906.

1999 as the senior vice president of global sales and business development. He can be reached at brendan.keegan@netigy.com or at 24150 Hillview Rd., Los Altos Hills, CA 94024.

MICHAEL EMR '93 and his beautiful bride, Peggy, tied the knot on October 16, 1999. Send congratulations to 701 Pepperidge Rd., Mahwah, NJ 07430 or to MikeEmr@aol.com.

Employed by Alcan Aluminum Corporation, **WILLIAM SCHMITT '94** writes that he recently changed departments and finds himself with new tasks and new things to learn. He has been doing a lot of traveling for the company and in February spent two weeks in Korea, handling technology transfer. Billy would love to hear from friends at william_schmitt@alcan.com or at 142A Skyline Dr., Oswego, NY 13126.

"Andrea, Brielle, and I just relocated from Austin, Texas, to Burlington, Vermont," writes **BRYAN McDONALD '95**. "I've taken a job with IBM and am in the middle of unpacking. We look forward to having friends and family close by again." His new address is 21 Weatherfield Bow, Essex, VT 05452; mcdona@flash.net.

JASON D. SAWYER '96 has moved to 9 Leach Rd., Eliot, ME 03903.

DECEASED

We regret to report the death of the following alumni:

W. HARRINGTON DISBROW '28

October 15, 1998

CHARLES L. KESSLER '37

May 27, 2000

ROBERT J. MELOSH '47

November 17, 1999

CLINTON W. ROBINS '34

November 2, 1998

CAMPBELL SULLIVAN '51

September 1996

News From Our Alumni

Send greetings to **FREDERICK S. STID-FOLE '31** at 1450 Crosshill Lane, Warrior, AL 35180.

From May to November **DOUGLAS W. RONALDSON '40** lives in Rhode Island, and from November to May he makes his home at 3991 Windward Passage Circle, #101, Bonita Springs, FL 34134. He'd love to hear from brothers from his era at way_side35@aol.com.

JOHN H. ROBERTSON '51 writes that he's looking forward to his 50th reunion in 2001. Until then, he can be reached at 74 Farmview Lane, Litzitz, PA 17543 (cliffs95@aol.com).

"After graduating from RPI, I got my master's in metallurgy from Yale," pens **JOHN J. PRUSAK '58** (2000 Woodbridge Dr., McKinney, TX 75070; jprusak@aol.com). "After working for IBM for 32 years, I took an early retirement buyout and then proceeded to form my own environmental consulting company, which keeps me very busy traveling in the U.S. and the rest of the world."

The director of sales for Northern Europe at Millennium Inorganic Chemicals, **PETER N. KROEGER '65** has moved to Brussels. We'll publish his snail mail address as soon as we have it; in the meantime, write to him at pkroeger@fastnet.

After 11 years in Indonesia as a consultant to the Ministry of Health, WHO, UNICEF, and the World Bank, **JACK S. ROBINSON '67** has returned to the U.S. Drop him a line at 207 W. Stewart St., Willis, TX 77378, or at jrobinson@people.pc.com.

Kudos to **JOHN BIDOSKY III '75** for his promotion to vice president at American Bridge Company. Mail reaches him at P.O. Box 274, Mountaintown, NY 10953 (jbidosky@americanbridge.net).

JAMES MERRICK '77 works for Anderson Builders, Inc., and lives at 270 Commonwealth Ave., Springfield, MA 01108.

In September 1999, **MICHAEL AL-PAUGH '83** started a new job with Space.com, a news and information web site about space. At home (11 Peachtree Lane, Mullica Hill, NJ 08062), he and wife

Teresa are kept busy raising two sets of twins, Kelley and Claire (8) and Kyle and Ryan (4), all of whom are doing well. "Any brothers in the New York City area should send an e-mail," writes Michael, "and maybe we could schedule a get-together." His e-mail address is malpaugh@space.com.

Patti and **CHRISTOPHER M. HAFTEL '83** and their children, Elizabeth (11), Stephanie (8), and Joe (6), live at 25 Spencer Dr., Nashua, NH 03062. Chris works for Dynamics Research Corporation in Bedford, Massachusetts, and can be reached by e-mail at chafhel@aol.com.

ROBERT "Rip" COLLINS '85 reports that he has changed jobs and industries: "I am at e-steel.com, a B2B Internet startup. We are a steel industry exchange portal. Things at e-steel are going incredibly well, and we are looking for a lot of talented developers, engineering managers (for software development), software implementation people, project managers, product development people, and software/ERP marketers. Know anyone?" Rip spends three nights a week in New York City and would love to connect with other Theta Chis there. Contact him at rcollins@e-steel.com or at 539 Hilaire Rd., Saint Davids, PA 19087.

SCOTT VIRKLER '87 has also joined an Internet startup, Globalspec.com, "a B2B marketplace for engineers. Look for the IPO!" Stay in touch with Scott at svirkler@globalspec.com or at 61 Mann Blvd., Clifton Park, NY 12065.

Please note this new address for **DAVID WILLIAMS '88**: 270 Brady Walk, Lawrenceville, GA 30045.

BRIAN J. WOJTON '89 and his growing family (including five-year-old Erin and two-year-old Brian Patrick) have moved to 2 Blue Bell Lane, Robbinsville, NJ 08691. "If you're in the Princeton area, stop by and visit anytime," writes Brian, who can be reached by e-mail at bwojton@hess.com.

Tracy and **ROBERT H. GRAY '90** enjoyed visiting with **DOUG MCCONNELL '90** and **CHRIS MATTEI '90** at the February wedding of **SCOTT CAMPBELL '90**. "It was a great time," writes Rob, whose address is 1485 Bay Rd., Lake George, NY 12845 (rgray@supertor.net).

BRENDAN KEEGAN '91 joined Netigy in