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THE DELTA DIAL

Delta Theta Chi Corporation • Theta Chi Fraternity • Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Alumnus Honored

Ray Rumanowski '73 Recognized for His Contributions

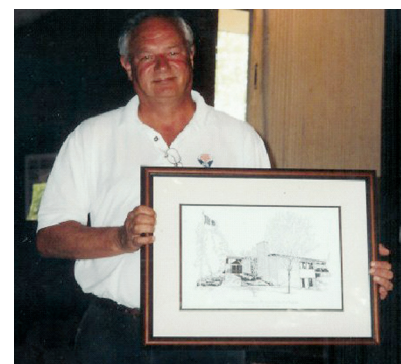
At its June meeting it was with much regret that the corporation Board accepted the resignation of **Ray Rumanowski '73** from his dual roles as Chapter Advisor and representative to the Alumni InterGreek Council. The Board thanked Ray for his years of dedication to Theta Chi and presented him with a handsome framed print of the 2100 Burdett chapter house.

Ray first was elected to the Board in June 1998, and his management skills became readily apparent just six months later, when the undergraduate hazing event occurred. He played a huge role in the months that followed in calmly acting as one of the Board's chief liaisons with the National headquarters. He was even singled out in National Executive Director Dave Westol's article in the most recent issue of *The Rattle* as one of several Theta Chi's across the country "who have made a difference." The next 18 months was the most dire period in Delta's history, and Ray and the other Board members worked tirelessly in bringing the chapter back from the brink. He was elected Vice President of the Board in June 1999 and

assumed the duties of President in June 2000.

Upon the end of his Board term in June 2001, Ray volunteered to act as both the Chapter Advisor and the AIGC rep. As Advisor, Ray nurtured the fragile group of undergraduates along the tough path back to a healthy chapter, and ably handled whatever infractions came along by working closely with the RPI dean's office.

Ray, on behalf of Delta's more than 1,000 living alumni, THANK YOU! ■



Alumni Relations Report

Delta Dial Takes on New Look

Brothers of Theta Chi, I hope this edition of the *Delta Dial* finds everyone doing well. I am honored to be writing my first article for the Dial as President of the Alumni Board. One of the first things you've probably noticed is the Dial's new look and feel. This is a result of our partnering with a new communications firm, Affinity Connection Inc. This partnership is part of a larger effort in conjunction with our upcoming Centennial (Yep, that's right - Delta Chapter will be turning 100 in 2008) that you will be hearing more about in the coming months.

It is with great pleasure that I can announce the two newest members of the Alumni Board -- **Ray Moran '95** and **Bob Wright '72** and can report that they've both already made significant contributions. I am also very pleased to welcome **Scott Campbell '90** into the ranks of our advisors as Chapter Advisor. Many of you

will remember that Scott was President of the Board several years back, and we greatly appreciate that he has agreed to serve in this pivotal role.

I would be remiss not to mention **Greg Dietrich '96** and **Ned Van Heuvel '67** and express the Board's gratitude to them for their four years of dedicated service. I also wanted to take a moment to thank Greg Dietrich both personally and publicly for his leadership as President of the Board the past two years. As we are all aware, the past couple of years have had their share of challenges and Greg helped us face them with courage, determination and honor.

Your Alumni Board now consists of:

- **Greg Willmott '87, President**
- **Mike Emr '93, Secretary**
- **John Auletta '93, Vice President**
- **Bill McIntyre '74**
- **Scott Virkler '87**

- **Paul Silhan '71**
- **Bob Wright '72**
- **Ray Moran '95**

And our dedicated group of Advisors now consists of:

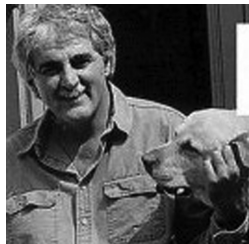
- **Rich Boroway '73, Treasurer, Financial Advisor and AIGC representative**
- **Rich Bollam '66, Scholarship Fund Advisor**
- **Marc Dickie '88, Maintenance Advisor**
- **Greg Hughes '67, Faculty Advisor**
- **W. Everett Molony '63, CIP Fund Manager**
- **F. (Terry) Jones '66, Fund Raising Advisor**
- **Scott Campbell '90, Chapter Advisor**

Since you last heard from us the Board has held two meetings -- in June and Sep-

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Renaissance Man Ed Touchette '70

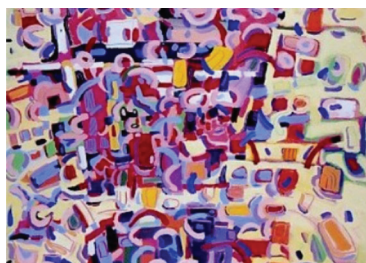
If the definition of a "Renaissance Man" is someone who has an interest in, and excels at, many different things, then Delta



Chapter's **Ed Touchette '70** certainly qualifies. The stereotypical assumption is that RPI guys lack any right-brained artistic dimension, but Ed has excelled in painting, music, and writing -- all after achieving his degree at Rensselaer in the left-brained world of architecture!

From 1973 to 2005, brother Touchette's bold and colorful watercolor and oil and acrylic paintings have received numerous awards at juried exhibitions and have been commissioned by private collectors and corporate clients. His work has been featured in one-man and group exhibitions with other notable American artists such as Nell Blaine and Joe Solmon in art meccas such as Boston, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Showcasing the breadth of his styles, his abstract *Red Landscape No. 1* was selected for display by the curator of the Bank of America collection at Gallery AA/B in Boston, while his scenic "sporting art" -- particularly renditions of dog breeds and events -- have put Ed's paintings in demand by sportsmen and have led them to grace the covers of *Gray's*



Sporting Journal and the American Kennel Club's *AKC Gazette* magazine. On the literary side, Ed focuses on historical fiction. His 2003 novel, *In a Place Like No Other*, and his two short stories,

Statues and Some Things You Just Can't Swallow, are in that genre. All can be accessed at Amazon.

com, where the novel's six reviews by readers earned a unanimous "5 star" rating -- the highest available. Just put "Touchette" into the Amazon search engine.

Not impressed yet? Add to all of the above the fact that even before his painting and literary efforts, Ed had been a devoted musician.

He performed in folk and rock bands, studied classical composition with Emil Kalled of Albany, jazz with Nick Brignola in Troy, and piano with Lee Shaw. "I played in the Troy area," he recalls. "I think I even backed up **Paul Silhan** once at the House" (a conspiracy charge that Paul '71 denies). These days, brother Touchette conducts his diverse endeavors from the historic seaside village of Gloucester, Massachusetts, where he keeps in close touch with brothers **Pat Salony '71**, **Larry Maver '71** and others.

The best way to fully appreciate Ed's works is to sample them. In addition to his literary works being available on Amazon.com, his artwork can be found through the *Uncle Ham's* website at www.unclehams.com. Brothers can reach Ed by email at eddesign@nii.net.

What's next? While you can never predict that for a Renaissance man, no doubt Ed will continue his tradition of excellence. In the meantime, he continues to infuse several generations with a passion for art by teaching it part-time in local grade schools and conducting workshops for appreciative youngsters and adults alike. ■



Alumni Report

Chapter Receives Favorable Report from National

With my term as Active President coming to an end, I'd like to take the time to thank all the brothers, both active and alumni, who have made my tenure so enjoyable and rewarding. I'd also like to extend a special thanks to my executive board of **Ed Davidson**, **Brandon Johnson**, **Anthony Albano**, and **Brandon Bradley** for all their hard work this past year.

Before winter arrived a cement slab poured in front of the basement door. Brother **Dave Hansen** who volunteered his time, tools, and excavator skills to turn Delta's mud pond into a nice cement patio spearheaded the project.

This semester has also seen the addition of new brothers. Initiated in late November, the young men are eager to start contributing to the house. I personally have called upon them for suggestions for our Spring Rush as I begin my new position of Rush Chair. As a house, we are looking forward to having a great Spring Rush and a large Spring pledge class.

Some important administrative things have happened since the last Dial came out. We were visited by the Learning and

Educational Consultant from National, and he gave us a favorable report. The National Risk Management Committee removed our probation status and so now we are only waiting for RPI's probation status to be lifted in December 2006. Lastly, the Relationship Statement between RPI and fraternities was rewritten and approved by the IFC and should be in effect at the beginning of next semester.

The new Executive Board was just elected and is comprised of **David Walker** as president, **Anthony Albano** as vice president, **Jacob Kalencik** as treasurer, **James Porambo** as secretary, and **Ryan Hickey** as pledge marshal. The new eboard plans to raise the house GPA as well as improve our community service program.

Fraternally,
Jeff Douglas '06
President ■

Alumni Report

By Bob Wright '72

"And On the Mound Tonight at Fenway..."

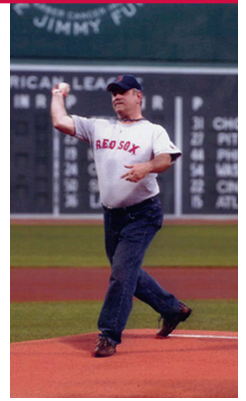
It doesn't matter whether we're from the class of '73 or the class of 2006 - wherever we gather together, the bond of Theta Chi is strong. It was that kind of special night when brothers, wives and children got together in Boston on September 2nd to watch **Bob Baker '73** throw out the first pitch at Fenway Park. Watching



(L-R): Bob Wright '72, Bob Baker '73, John Lippold '73, and Greg Seleman '72

Bob, a life-long Red Sox fan, and his wife Linda touring the ball park and being on the field for the first pitch was quite a thrill for all of the Delta Chapter alums and their families in attendance - even for those

of us who are die-hard Yankee fans! The chance for Bob to stand on the mound and throw the first pitch before the crowd of tens of thousands was a gift from **John Lippold '73** to the Bakers. John had attended a charity auction for Special Olympics, and the tickets and tour were an auction item donated by the Red Sox organization. Although the bidding was intense, he persevered, knowing how much Bob and Linda would treasure the moment. John and his wife Mary flew in from Ohio for the big night. **Greg Seleman '72**, his wife Terri and their two children Jonathan and Casey, along with my wife Deb and I, drove from the Albany area to Boston to be part of the festivities. Three of Bob's children (Heather, Jennifer and Robbie) were also there to watch their Dad's pitching debut. ■



Although none of us doubted it, Bob reaffirmed that he doesn't have "perfect pitch" - but he did get the ball into the catcher's mitt!

Delta Reunion

Class of '55 Just Can't Stay Away

It's official: the Class of '55 holds the record for the greatest percentage of a Delta Chapter class returning for an annual reunion. Twenty-one of the 33 members returned to RPI during the commemorative weekend.

Helping to rally the troops of this exceptional class to attend their 50th Reunion, through the use of emails and personal appeals, were **Phil Carroll** and **Dick Williams**. Since

several came from quite a distance, the entire contingent arranged to stay in The Hampton in Latham, where the good times continued off campus. **Dick Williams** commented, "I believe



(L-R): Jay Hamilton, Skip Charles, Kurt Brunhuber, Fred Mussler, Al Bayley, Larry Leonard, and Phil Carroll (the boy is Fred's grandson)

the key to success is that **Phil Carroll**, **Larry Leonard** and **Jay Hamilton** have kept in touch with us over the years and maintained our interest in seeing each other periodically."

Just make an effort to stay in touch -- what a great lesson for all Delta Chapter alumni to take note of, especially since it's easier than ever. Many alumni email addresses are available at the "Alumni" page of Delta Chapter's updated website: www.deltachapter-thetachi.org If your email isn't already listed there, ask that it be added, by using the link at the bottom of the page. ■

Chapter Report

Delta Chapter Senior Wins Idea Competition at RPI

Theta Chi brother **Brendan Kavanagh '06**, was presented with a check for \$1,000 at the halftime of the homecoming football game in September as one of five winners for the *Change the World Challenge* competition at RPI.

The award is part of \$1 million gift from RPI alumnus Sean O'Sullivan. O'Sullivan created the award to support entrepreneurship education and stimulate ideas to improve the world for people.

Over the past four years Brendan, a senior mechanical engineering major from Springfield, MA, has had internships with Pratt & Whitney in East Hartford, CT. During his commuting he became interested in the constant braking, and fender benders that he observed and began to wonder if an extra warning to drivers could help prevent accidents. Specifically, he considered what if drivers knew sooner that the car in front of them was not just braking, but *slamming on its brakes*? After some research he learned that even a *half second* more could significantly reduce the accident rate.

Brendan designed a way to send a signal to a car's taillights when the driver slams on the brakes. This signal would create a *flash*, or *change in color*, in the vehicle's brake lights, catching the attention of the car behind. Potentially, 60% of today's rear-end collisions might be eliminated using this creative approach. Someday it might be a routine part of vehicle braking systems, but it will always be Brendan who thought "out of the box" and first came up with it.

In October, Brendan used part of his award money for a fundraiser for victims of Hurricane Katrina. Delta Chapter then matched his contribution, resulting in \$600 being donated to a campus-wide relief fund, Project Hope. ■

Alumni Updates

Frank Potter '49

(1801 Wicker St., #10E, Sanford, NC 27331; fjp7@aol.com) My life was radically altered, following the information I obtained on my 40th birthday (2/17/64). If you will go to Web site www.2ndcomingofchrist.com, perhaps you will understand.

John Foley '84

(12 Clover Ct., Belle Mead, NJ 08502; jfoley@alliance-consulting.com) Let's get the class of 1984 together for a reunion. If interested, send me your contact info.

Matthew Douglas '89

(132 Kent Place Blvd., Summit, NJ 07901; 132kentplace@comcast.net) Marcia and I had our third child, Connor Patrick, on April 29, 2005. Big brother Matthew (3) and sister Lauren (2) are keeping us very busy, but we're having lots of fun. Glad to see Delta has weathered the storms and is back on track.

Christopher Mattei '90

(6091 Paseo Carreta, Carlsbad, CA 92009; mattei7565@sbcglobal.net) I am now living in southern California again with wife, Jenn and 3 kids. Our third child, Cal, was

born on 9/25/04. I recently returned from Operation Iraqi Freedom (3/31/05) with Marine Aircraft Group 16.

Randall Perillo '92

(One Highland Ave., Stoneham, MA 2180; perillo@rcn.com) On April 30, 2005, I successfully completed my first marathon. I finished the Kentucky Derby Festival in Louisville, KY in a time of 4:57:36. I'm also in my fifth year as a stay-at-home dad, caring for my daughters Delia (5) and Sophia (3).

Scott Ogeka '97

(RR 4 Box 4256, Meshoppen, PA 18630; ogeka@hotmail.com) My wife Stephenie and I had a baby girl last spring. Her name is Anna Grace. We are now living with Stephenie's parents while we build our house. The Lord has blessed us.

Richard Goodspeed

(2237 Hurstview Dr., Hurst, TX 76053; rgoods5050@aol.com) I graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1950, am retired, am active in choir and do volunteer work. ■

Have an idea for an article in an upcoming issue of The Delta Dial? Email your suggestions to paulsilhan@hotmail.com.

Alumni Relations Report

(Continued from Page 1)

tember. In addition to the new members and election of new officers, we've been involved in helping the brothers adjust to the Alcohol Free Housing (AFH) situation and in planning for the Centennial. As you only turn 100 once, we are hoping to take this opportunity to make some dramatic progress at Delta Chapter. As I alluded to earlier, expect to be hearing a lot more on this topic in the near future.

In closing, I wish to thank everyone for their continued interest and support. We hear from a number of you on a regular basis. However, I particularly want to reach out to those of you who may not have had much contact with the house recently. "Once a Theta Chi, always a Theta Chi" is ever so true -- especially here at Delta Chapter. So jump on the web-site www.deltachapter-thetachi.org, update your contact information and let us hear from you.

Fraternally,

Greg Willmott '87

President

Delta Theta Chi Corporation
gwillmot@nycap.rr.com ■

Inside this Issue of The Delta Dial...

- Announcement of new communications program
- Latest news from the chapter
- Updates from your alumni brothers

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