

THE DELTA DIAL

Delta Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity at Rensselaer

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Secretary

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Treasurer, Financial Advisor
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Capital Campaign Steering
Committee Co-Chair

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Capital Campaign Steering
Committee Co-Chair

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Scott Campbell '90
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Centennial Advisor

Lew 'Tex' French '83
texdoc@optonline.net

Alumni Board President's Greeting

Dear Brothers of Theta Chi,

Greetings again. As always, I hope that this edition of *The Delta Dial* finds everyone doing well.

First and foremost, I am proud to welcome two new Alumni Board members. In June, **Craig Woolhiser '86** and **Nathan Doyle '02** were unanimously elected onto the Board. They have jumped in with both feet and already are making a difference. See the sidebar at left for a list of all Alumni Board members. I would like to thank **Bill McIntyre '74** and **Scott Virkler '87**, who left the Board in June, for their four years of dedicated service.

The Board has met twice since the last *Delta Dial* was published. The primary focus of these meetings has been on Rush and our Capital Campaign. The update on the Greek Life Initiatives proposed by the RPI administration,

***"Please stay involved
and participate however you
can—the brotherhood
is always strengthened by
your efforts."***

about which I've written in the last two *Delta Dial* editions, is that the Initiatives really have been boiled down to the implementation of a new alcohol policy at Rensselaer. Since we're already alcohol-free, this new policy has had little impact on Delta Chapter.

Events

The really exciting news is that we continue to hold successful alumni events and have some big plans for events coming our way.

1. We just completed another successful Alumni Weekend. Please see the article related to this event for all the details and big thanks to **Kevin Solli '02** and **Nathan Doyle '02** for organizing it.
2. The Capital Campaign spearheaded by **Rich Bollam '66** and **Terry Jones '66** is going well and we are looking at entering the next phase of this project. Please continue checking your mailbox for the Capital Campaign brochure which will explain how you can help support this important effort.
3. **We are turning 100!** Yep, hard to believe that next fall Theta Chi will have been at RPI for 100 years. Be on the lookout for more information from **Tex French '83**, our Centennial Advisor, and his team about our plans to celebrate this monumental event.

Lastly, I once again find myself finishing my article with a heavy heart, as we have received word that since the last *Delta Dial* we have lost two brothers, **Chris Drummond '89** and **Jeff Calero '95**.

Please stay involved and participate however you can—the brotherhood is always strengthened by your efforts.

Fraternally,

Greg "Wilmo" Willmott '87

IN MEMORIAM

Delta Chapter mourns the loss of brothers **Chris Drummond '89** and Major **Jeffrey R. Calero '95**. Chris, who was a consultant living in Portland, Maine, passed away from an undisclosed cause in late August. He is survived by his beloved Klara, his parents, brothers and

sisters. Jeff, who is survived by his parents, was killed in late October by a roadside bomb during his second deployment to Afghanistan in service of our country. Our hearts and prayers go out to our departed brothers' loved ones and friends

Years of Planning Pay Off!

Second Century Campaign to Begin Public Phase in 2008

By Rich Bollam '66

As many of you may have heard by now, about three years ago the Board of Delta Theta Chi Corporation (the alumni-run organization that actually owns the land and Chapter House at 2100 Burdett Avenue) unanimously agreed that the time had come for a major capital campaign.

There were three strategic reasons behind this decision. The first was that 2008 will be Delta Chapter's centennial year felt part of the chapter's observance should involve helping to secure its next 100 years. The second was that in 2009 the Chapter House on Burdett Avenue will be 50 years old, and it has seen some tough duty as a home-away-from-home for over 750 brothers. The third was that in recent years the "culture" of the Greek system at Rensselaer (and at many other campuses) has been undergoing fairly significant and challenging changes.

Your Board concluded that if Theta Chi at Rensselaer were going to not only survive these challenging times, but also be

a *leader* in adapting to them, we needed to ask the entire brotherhood to provide the financial support necessary to both repair our aging Chapter House and to bring it up to today's standards.

Deciding to mount a capital campaign was, of course, just the tip of the iceberg. The next step involved working with a local architectural firm and the undergraduates to develop the initial project wish list and prepare preliminary cost estimates. We then interviewed several national consulting firms that specialize in Greek fundraising and eventually selected Affinity Connection, a firm based in State College, PA.

In late 2005 Affinity Connection conducted a Feasibility Study to assess the chances that such a campaign could succeed. The results were positive, so about a year ago we formally retained Affinity to assist us in conducting what we have named our Second Century Campaign. Since then, we have been working with them on the "nucleus" or

"quiet" phase of the campaign, which involves fine-tuning our project list and its related cost; putting together brochures, forms and letters; getting pledges of support from the Board members and the undergraduates; interviewing and soliciting (with the help of Charlie Frick, our Affinity Lead Gift officer) the 20-30 alumni we feel have both the desire and the means to support the campaign in an exceptional way; and finally, preparing for the "public" phase, which will involve soliciting all alumni for their support.

We have now arrived at the threshold of this monumental venture, and hope brothers of all decades will step forward and lend a helping hand to help Delta Chapter position itself for success for the next 100 years.

Additionally, we are working with RPI to set up a tax-deductible fund that will be available for both the campaign and for future use. Their support and cooperation has been a tremendous help

Going Public in our Centennial Year – Lend us a Hand!

By Terry Jones '66

In Rich Bollam's article above, he told you about the efforts that have preceded the public phase of the Second Century Campaign. During that "quiet" phase, there has been a lot of preparatory work, but it has been done by a relatively small number of people (fund-raising professionals and alumni). Now it's time for all of the brothers of Delta Chapter to get involved, and that is going to be the key to our success! We can't sit back and wait for a few fortunate brothers to make major donations that will carry this project. We want, and need, all of the alumni and active brothers to participate in this campaign, pledging at a level appropriate to their means.

Think back to your days in the house and remember major work parties. A lot of work was accomplished in a relatively short time because all hands participated, yet we had some fun doing it, and the sense of brotherhood was strengthened from every one of those experiences. It's probably been decades since you were part of a work party,

but the same principle applies here: there is a lot to do, but we're going to have enough brothers involved so that it isn't asking too much of any one of them, and it comes with the enjoyment of renewing old friendships.

"Now it's time for all of the brothers of Delta Chapter to get involved, and that is going to be the key to our success!"

This is no "pyramid scheme," but there is a pyramid of sorts: it's our communications network. The Campaign Committee will be able to reach all of the brotherhood through Class Agents, who reach every brother in their own graduating classes, and Era Captains, who communicate with the Class Agents from a span of class years, usually a few on either side of their own class. In that way, each volunteer is asked to communicate with no more than about ten or twelve other brothers. Another benefit of

this network concept is that the more people there are involved, the smaller the branches of the network become and the easier it is to make all of the assigned contacts.

We're poised to begin the public phase. Sample contact letters are written for the Class Agents, and we're putting the finishing touches on the brochure that provides the details and drawings of the improvements to be made to the House. All we need now is your participation to make this a success. We are still looking for Class Agents for several classes in particular (see page 3), but if you would like to volunteer for any Campaign activity, please let us know by contacting me or **Rich Bollam '66** at our phone numbers or email addresses listed on page 1. Like most worthwhile volunteer efforts, you'll find that you get more out of it than you put in, and, in this case, a large part of what you get back will be the renewal of some great relationships. Can you lend a helping hand, Brother?

Alumni Weekend Returns!

Mid-October Event Draws Large Alumni Representation for RPI vs. USMMA Football Game

By Kevin Solli '02, Nathan Doyle '02, and Brandon Bradley '07

On the weekend of Friday, October 19th and Saturday, October 20th, Alumni Weekend returned to Delta Chapter for the second year in a row. The festivities began Friday night as some of our younger alumni congregated at The Ruck (formerly Sutters) for some wings and a drink or two.

Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m., the North Lot started to fill up as our tailgate party took shape. The actives really put together a proper tailgate with all the grilling and beer needed to help support our Engineers. We had more than 40 alumni present to watch RPI beat USMMA (US Merchant Marine Academy) in a great game that featured the Engineers returning two punts for touchdowns—the first time that had happened since 1973.

After a small break, alumni and their guests started to arrive at The Irish Mist in Troy for a semi-formal dinner at 7:00 p.m. We had a terrific showing with over 80 people in attendance for the dinner, which was a 65% increase over last year—plus,

a wider assortment of alumni years was represented. The Class of 1987, celebrating its 20th anniversary year, had a very strong showing in particular. Alumni were seen partying until late into the evening.

Next year is the Centennial of Delta Chapter, and the celebration of this event has been planned to coincide with the last RPI home game *ever* to be played on the '86 Field. Everyone—please mark your calendars now for this very special, once-in-a-lifetime weekend on November 7th and 8th, 2008! See you then!!



The second Alumni Weekend successfully brings old and new friends together again.

Call for Class Agents!

In 2008, we will be launching the public phase of the campaign and sharing more information with alumni. To do that efficiently and effectively, we need your help!

For example, prior to the official public announcement, we are seeking brothers willing to serve as class representatives. For those interested, you would be responsible for reaching out to the brothers from your class and soliciting their support for this tremendous effort. Training and materials will be provided - all you'll need to join the effort is a little time and the desire to catch up with old friends.

We would welcome additional help regarding any class, but below is the list of classes currently without a representative. If you are interested please contact Ellen Konkle at ellen@affinityconnection.com, she is our campaign manager and will give you all the necessary information.

1950	1957	1979	1992	2005
1951	1960	1980	1994	2006
1952	1961	1981	1995	
1953	1962	1982	1997	
1954	1977	1984	2000	
1956	1978	1987	2001	

ALUMNI UPDATES

'40s

James Murray, M.D. '48

(327 Briery Run Rd., Kinston, NC 28501; jmurraymd@comcast.net) I'm still alive and kicking. I just turned 81. I've been a retired general surgeon for the past 16 years. I'll be driving my big rig motorhome (40' diesel) to the Northwest in August. I'm now in North Carolina.

George Leeson '49

(12992 SE Crooked Stick Ln., Hobe Sound, FL 33455-7627) It was time for a change! There were too many memories of living here with my lovely Jane, so I decided to relocate. Please come to see me this winter and/or the spring of 2008.

'60s

Wayne Wilhelm '62

(PO Box 883287, Steamboat Springs, CO 80488; waynerwilhelm@aol.com) I married Deborah in 1997. We split our time between

Steamboat Springs, CO and Chattanooga, TN. We are enjoying skiing, biking, hiking, tennis and traveling. Before I retired in 2000, I spent a long career in management consulting with Pricewaterhouse Coopers.

'80s

Timothy Kusters '84

(215 Norsam Dr., Langhorne, PA 19047; tkusters@tdisales.com) I have recently been keeping in touch with singer-songwriter Guy "Caveman" Ford '83, who recently released his first CD, "Rainbow's End," featuring his acoustic guitar work. A recent article about Guy and the album is available at www.townonline.com/marblehead/entertainment/x1649542696. Helping out with the CD was Chris Reilley '83 (chris@reilleydesign.com), who did the art work and cover layout. You can connect with Guy at guyford@comcast.net, 32 Forrester Street, Salem, MA 01970.

Gregory Palmer '88

(274 Moosehorn Rd., East Greenwich, RI 02818; gpalmer@yahoo.com) I am living in Greenwich, RI. My oldest is playing Frosh

Football. You guessed it, he plays D-back (but doesn't get beat deep) and RB. He has his mother's athletic ability, obviously!

Matthew Douglas '89

(29 Flintlock Court, Bernardsville, NJ 07924; mmd2000@patmedia.net) After 18 years leading major supply initiatives for companies large and small, I am searching for a new career in venture capital or private equity. I am spending time with my wife, Marcia, and children: Matthew (5), Lauren (4), and Connor (2), while I search. I am also training to run my first marathon in November in New York City.

UNDERGRAD OFFICERS

President: **Jacob ("Jake") Kalencik**

Vice President: **Gordon Reynolds**

Secretary: **Andrew Nelson**

Treasurer: **Steven Maruffi**

Marshal: **Dave Ramonas**

A Busy and Successful Fall Semester for Undergraduates

Rush Season Benefits from Good Planning and New Marketing Package

By Brandon Bradley '07, Undergraduate President

The fall semester for the undergraduates has been very exciting with regard to the success of the football team and our fall rush. Several members of Delta Chapter were on the RPI football team which concluded a triumphant 8-1 season by becoming the Liberty League Champions for 2007, resulting in an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament. The team had finished the regular season by defeating arch-rival Union 20-14 on The Dutchman's home field and retaining the 'Shoes' for the second straight year. Unfortunately, in the opening round of the NCAA tournament the team lost a heart-breaking game to The College of New Jersey 17-14 on a last second field goal.

The rush season also has been a winner for the house. This year we prepared professionally printed marketing packages of our four-page rush brochure, a letter to parents, information about the scholarship programs, and even cost-of-living comparisons, all presented in a handsome


folder. We carefully scheduled rush events for times when freshman would be better able to attend (including some on campus), held larger events, and spaced them more evenly. The pig roast at the house and the on-campus dunk tank were especially successful. We currently have 12 signed bids and several other individuals who have expressed interest but are waiting until the spring. The make-up of the fall class will be entirely freshman, with the potential of two sophomores who have shown interest.

General upkeep of the house and brother morale is still strong. This year we required move-in to take place during the week preceding the beginning of the semester to allow more time to prepare the house. And, we undertook several major tasks that resulted in the house being in very good condition for rush. A special thanks needs to go out to brother **Paul Silhan '71**, who went above and beyond the call of duty by helping us put together

our rush package, as well as by providing hands-on help during several consecutive and hot pre-return August weekends to get the lawn and exterior in shape. He also provided us with a riding lawn tractor to help us keep it that way.

In closing, my time as president here has been very rewarding and I see only great things for the future of the house. Sadly, I will be graduating at the end of the semester, but I look forward to passing the torch to another deserving brother who will lead Delta Chapter into its second century. This year's rush class, and those beyond, will benefit from the fruits of the ongoing efforts of our alumni on behalf of the Capital Campaign, which is becoming more of a reality with each passing day. The campaign brochure will explain our goals, how the funds will be used, and provide other information about this major effort to restore Delta Chapter as a powerhouse at RPI.

*See page 2 to learn more about your role in the
Second Century Campaign.*


Delta Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity
at Rensselaer
 Alumni Relations Processing Center
 P.O. Box 7007
 Albert Lea, MN 56007-8007
 Address Service Requested
 973-026 FN

Alumni Scholarship Program News

2007-2008 Scholarships Set New Record for Numbers and Dollars

The Scholarship Committee for the Delta Chapter Theta Chi Fraternity Scholarship Fund was pleased to announce in June 2007 that a record six Alumni Scholarships totaling a record \$12,000 were being awarded for the 2007-2008 school year. The recipients were:

Brandon Z. Bradley came to Rensselaer from Syracuse New York. He is a “super senior,” having spent last spring and summer on a co-op assignment with Schick-Wilkerson in Farmington, CT. Brandon has been very active at Delta Chapter: he is currently House President and was Pledge Marshall during his junior year. He is an Industrial Engineering major and, following graduation in December 2007, will be starting a job with the Trane Division of American Standard, based in Hartford, CT, after six months of training at the company’s headquarters in La Crosse, WI. “BZB” comments, *“I am deeply honored that I have received recognition from my fellow brothers and alumni in the form of an Alumni Scholarship. I have put my heart into the House and I have received more in return than I could ever have imagined. I see only positive things for Delta Chapter in the future and I look forward to coming back as an alumnus to see how the brotherhood has evolved. I would like to thank the Scholarship Committee for selecting me as one of the recipients of this year’s Alumni Scholarships.”*

James Jackson hails from Norwich, New York. He is a senior Industrial & Management Engineering major, and has been on Dean’s List for four of his six semesters at Rensselaer. His older brother, Rick, is also a brother of Delta Chapter, and Jim is proud that his room at 2100 Burdett has “been in the family” for seven years. Jim has been the House Kitchen Manager for two years and the Interfraternity Council (IFC) Sports Chair for three years. After graduation in May 2008, he hopes to get a job in the Albany area. Jim notes, *“I was extremely happy to receive one of the Alumni Scholarships. It is a great help with rising college costs, and it makes finances a little less worrisome for my parents and me. I’m truly appreciative of everyone who has contributed to this great program, and I hope that someday I can return the favor.”*

Ian Johnson is from Brick, New Jersey and is currently a senior. He is majoring in Chemical Engineering and has been on the Dean’s List every semester for his first three years, resulting in a 3.7 grade point average (GPA). Ian has been inducted into Omega Chi Epsilon, the Chemical Engineering Honor Society. He plays varsity football, and is enjoying this outstanding year of RPI football. Ian has given of his scarce free time to be a Teaching Assistant and a tutor, not only for the football team, but for other Rensselaer students as well. He is currently Co-Rush Chair at Delta Chapter and participates in IFC sports when he can. Ian is currently thinking of either getting an M.B.A. or going straight to work upon graduation this coming spring. He remarks, *“The Alumni Scholarship means a great deal to me and my parents. It not only helps me with my financial need; it also reinforces the moral standards that Theta Chi was founded on. Joining Theta Chi was the best decision I have made since coming to Rensselaer, and it has given me friendships that will definitely last a lifetime.”*

Dylan Jones is a senior from Poultney, VT. He is a Mechanical Engineering major with a 3.3 GPA who has been on the Dean’s List for all but one semester. For the last two years, Dylan has been Delta Chapter’s Risk Management Chairman, and he has two part-time jobs to make ends meet, so the Alumni Scholarship was welcome news indeed. After graduation he intends to get an M.B.A. When asked what the brotherhood has meant to him, Dylan says, *“It was the best decision ever. I have forged bonds that will never be broken and if I hadn’t had the good fortune to attend a Theta Chi rush event my freshman year, I would have dropped out and never seen my sophomore year. Now, as I go through my senior year at Theta Chi, the Alumni Scholarship is the exclamation point on a great college fraternity experience!”*

Robert Polumbo is a senior who hails from Chelmsford, MA. He is an Electrical Engineering major with a concentration in Communications Systems and Digital Signal Processing. Rob is very focused, and attributes his 3.98 GPA and straight Dean’s List honors to many long nights spent studying in the chapter’s Dusty Library. He has been inducted into the Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society and the Eta Kappa Nu Electrical Engineering Honor Society. He hopes to get a job after graduation with one of the large companies serving the defense industry. In spite of all the time spent on his studies, he has had time to be a Teaching Assistant, to participate in IFC sports and snowboard; and every Saturday he is a Big Brother to a local child in downtown Troy. In 2006, he was House Manager. Looking back on his Theta Chi experience, Rob comments, *“I came to RPI to join Theta Chi. I came up two days early before football camp, loved the House, and signed my pledge form minutes after receiving a bid. It has been my home at Rensselaer, and a place where I can deal with the pressures of classes and studies in a relaxed and supportive environment. I also take a lot of pride in the appearance of the House and am anxious to see the improvements that the upcoming Second Century Campaign will bring.”*

David Walker is a senior from Waterford, CT. He is a Chemical Engineering major with a 3.3 GPA and has been inducted into the Omega Chi Epsilon Chemical Engineering Honor Society. This semester, on top of his Chemical Engineering courses, he is also doing research on Type I and Type II diabetes, specifically working on creating a control system for an artificial pancreas. Dave was House President last year and is Pledge Marshall this year. He played football his freshman year, rugby his sophomore year and IFC sports throughout. His plans after graduation include working in the biopharmaceutical, nuclear or oil industries; or possibly going to graduate school. Regarding the Alumni Scholarship David says, *“They have been extremely helpful in keeping up with the annual increases in tuition and other costs, because Rensselaer’s aid generally stays flat at your freshman level. Combined with all the friends I’ve made and the opportunities I’ve had, the Alumni Scholarship is the icing on the cake.”*

Thanks to All of Our Supporters!

As we do every year in our Fall issue of the *Delta Dial*, we wish to thank all of those alumni whose gifts to this valuable program have made it such a success. Between its inception in 1996 and September 30, 2007, over \$210,000 has been contributed by 173 Delta Chapter alumni; over \$74,000 has been awarded to 38 Delta Chapter undergraduates; and the market value of this fund (which is a part of Rensselaer’s endowment funds, and shares in its income and appreciation) has grown to over \$315,000. In addition, we want to individually acknowledge the following alumni whose total giving to date has reached one of our various *Leadership* levels.

Dusty Rhodes Society

(Lifetime contributions of \$25,000 and over)

Scholarship Benefactors

(Lifetime contributions of \$10,000 - \$24,999)

Arthur Wills '55
The Classes of 1960-1966, in memory of Nicholas Humber '63
Kurt Hollasch '67
Kenneth Schmalz '76

Scholarship Patrons

(Lifetime contributions of \$5,000 - \$9,999)

Joel Walker '60
Catherine Whittemore, in honor of her son, Allan '61
Charles Tracy '64
Richard Bollam '66
William Follit '66
Nick Donofrio '67

Scholarship Sponsors

(Lifetime contributions of \$2,500 - \$4,999)

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Harry Calhoun '67
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Paul McLaughlin '67
Pete Perucci '68
Sergei Yevich '68
Michael Gonzalez '69
William Nareski '70
Richard Podolec '70
Greg Seleman '72
Richard Spillane '72
David Uhlig '83

Scholarship Leaders

(Lifetime contributions of \$1,000 - \$2,499)

Robert Lukens '38
Fred Crossman '43
James Bryce '44
Henry Schnabel '50

James Hamilton '55
Eugene Fuller '57
Robert McIntosh '60
Allan Whittemore '61
David Steele '62
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Joseph Johnson '84
Stanley Kaplita '84
Wesley Kern '89
Paul DiChristina '91
Drew Spitzer '96
Matthew Dias '99

Scholarship Sustainers

(Testamentary contributions of \$5,000 and over)

John Casteras '67
Ray Rumanowski '73

Continuing Support Is Always Needed and Appreciated

With the primary fund-raising focus for the next few years being the Second Century Campaign, we are not actively soliciting alumni for contributions to the Alumni Scholarship Fund at this time. However, for those of you who may still wish to support this valuable program, please send your tax-deductible contribution to:

Office of Development, Attn: Lynn Hopwood
Hedley Building, 5th Floor
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
110 8th St.
Troy, New York 12180-3590

Note: Please make the check out to RPI, but be sure to indicate “For Theta Chi Scholarship Fund” on the memo line (or with a separate note). Also, remember that if your employer has an educational gift-matching program, most will match this gift because it is through RPI (and if they ask, just say it is “For Scholarships”). If you have questions, call **Rich Bollam '66** at 800-724-6700, ext. 303.