

UPCOMING EVENT

Sunday, October 4, 2009
Annual Corporation Board Meeting. 10 a.m. at the Chapter House. (2100 Burdett Ave.)
*Note: This date coincides with RPI Reunion Weekend. **Jim Dall '76** and **Brandon Bradley '07** have been nominated for 4-year terms on the board of directors.*

ALUMNI BOARD

President

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Vice President

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Centennial Campaign Manager

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Centennial Campaign Manager

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Chapter Advisor

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Treasurer

Chad Kelsey
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THE DELTA DIAL

May 2009

Delta Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity at Rensselaer

ALUMNI REPORT

It's Time to Take a Good Thing and Make it Better!

Theta Chi and Greek Life Continue to Play a Part in the Long Term Plans of RPI

By Ray Moran '95, President, Delta Theta Chi Corporation

I hope life is treating you well. A special shout out goes to those brothers that are serving our country at home and abroad...we all wish you safe journeys in your duties.

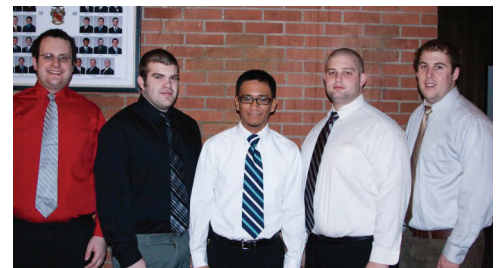
The undergraduates' newly-appointed officers are showing their willingness in taking on the tasks of making our Delta Chapter stronger in 2009. Rush, community relations, house maintenance, and improving educational standards are just some of the areas they currently working on.

In addition, these active brothers are working on making Theta Chi more relevant in and around the Rensselaer community. They are doing this through special events that help needy individuals/groups, by forging greater bonds with other Greek organizations, and finding ways to be a part of the decision-making process on campus.

"Rensselaer has recently moved its Reunion Weekend from June until October."

Our undergraduates are engaged in the important process of increasing the cohesion of Delta Chapter's brotherhood. It is time to take a good thing and make it better! They are finding ways to effectively transfer information from the old to the new, pass on the proper traditions, and encourage the fundamentally sound ways of living the "Delta Chapter" way. These internal improvements will lead the way for a great 2009 Fall Rush.

As an Alumni Board, we are pushing forward on the Capital Campaign, the house's architectural plans, and a timeline for phased renovations. Your contributions continue to help shape and increase the scope of these



*Our newly-appointed undergraduate officers. Left to right: Pledge Marshal **Andrew Nelson '10**, Treasurer **Chad Kelsey '10**, President **Charlemagne Balane '10**, Vice President **Evan O'Brien '11** and Secretary **Nick Bell '11**.*

designs and plans. We are working hard to find ways to reach out to class years and individuals that have not been properly approached in offering a donation. If you have not been contacted and wish to give a donation to the Capital Campaign, please contact me. And if you have given a gift, thank you, and please reach out to your Delta Chapter Brothers to see if they have been contacted by the campaign.

Our Alumni continue to have strong ties with school officials, faculty and staff, allowing the chapter to understand trends and changes in and around the administration. Theta Chi and Greek life continue to play a part in the long term plans of our Alma Mater.

Rensselaer has recently moved its Reunion Weekend from June until October. To keep with our corporation's by-laws, we will hold our annual meeting and board member elections this fall, coinciding with the new Alumni Weekend date. We have some fine gentlemen in mind for the board and have others that expressed their willingness to donate time and expertise in an advisory role.

As always, feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments.

SECOND CENTURY CAMPAIGN UPDATE

At 93% of Our Goal!

Thanks to the Alumni Who Have Pledged \$930,000

By Rich Bollam '66, Capital Campaign Manager

Since the Campaign update in the last *Dial*, two noteworthy things have happened that our alumni should be aware of.

You may recall that, because our \$1M Campaign goal is a large one, we have offered up to five years for the pay-in of your pledges; and most of you have chosen this option, so it will be 2011 or 2012 before the bulk of our funds have been received. Also, our architects and construction manager have told us that it is far more efficient to complete the entire project in one summer, rather than doing things in phases. However, at the alumni corporation's winter Board meeting, the actives impressed upon us the reality that certain repairs on our list just cannot wait until 2011. They also made us aware of a few other repair items that should probably be added to the project list.

Furthermore, as you all know, the demand for construction materials and labor has dropped dramatically from 2007,

when the architects last updated the project cost estimates. Therefore, we have recently asked our architects to re-do the project cost estimates based on: (a) a two-phase construction plan, with the first phase to be completed in the summer of 2010; (b) the addition to the project of the new repair items required; and (c) current material and labor costs. The net impact of these three changes is hard to predict because (a) and (b) will obviously increase costs, but (c) should decrease costs. We expect to have the architect's new numbers before the May Board meeting of the alumni corporation.

You will recall from the last *Dial* that we were happy to announce that we had received approximately \$930,000 in pledges (towards our \$1M goal) from less than 20% of our 1,100 alumni; and our hope was that we could achieve our "end-stage" goals of reaching and exceeding our \$1M target with 50-100 new pledges (totaling \$60,000-

\$100,000) from the remaining 80+% of our alumni who had not yet made a pledge. However, in light of the current severe recession impacting many of our alumni, we have decided to wait until this fall before starting a focused "mini-campaign" to reach these goals.

In the meantime, for those of you who are weathering the current financial storm fairly well, and would like to step forward and give something back to your old fraternity, please contact me at rbollam@bstco.com or **Rich Boroway '73** at rboroway@aol.com to request a pledge form and/or to get answers to any questions you may have about giving levels, naming opportunities, etc.

And we wish to again thank all those alumni who have helped us get to 93% of our Campaign goal!

CHAPTER REPORT

Focusing on Year-Round Recruitment

Theta Chi Invites Prospective Members to Numerous House Activities to Witness Brotherly Bond

By Charlemagne (Magne) Balane '10, Delta Chapter President

The conclusion of the fall semester has ushered the arrival of new officers to lead the house. I have the privilege of serving as your new Delta Chapter president. Working closely with me will be Vice President **Evan O'Brien '11**, Treasurer **Chad Kelsey '10**, Secretary **Nicholas Bell '11** and Pledge Marshal **Andrew Nelson '10**.

The advent of the new officers was accompanied by an improvement in the house academics. The house was ranked 18th out of 31 fraternities in academic performance for the fall semester, an improvement that the brothers will strive to continue.

At the beginning of the spring semester, the brotherhood has transitioned from a rush ideology to a recruitment philosophy in terms of securing new brothers. Instead of focusing on securing new brothers in a one-month rush period, the house will concentrate on

year-round recruitment by constantly inviting prospective members to the house. This will be achieved by offering academic support and inviting the prospective members to house activities such as dinners. Having the prospective members present at numerous house activities enables them to see the strong bond that the brothers of Theta Chi share with one another, and this should increase the interest of the prospective members in becoming part of the brotherhood.

Theta Chi has made its presence known at Rensselaer by becoming more involved both on campus and in the community. Inspired by **Bill Germanakos '88**, the Delta alumnus who won the fourth season of NBC's "The Biggest Loser", the house organized the first annual RPI Biggest Loser contest wherein the participants are given the chance to get themselves in better shape while aiding the

Troy community. All the proceeds raised from the benefit will be donated to the Boys and Girls Club of Troy. Additionally, the house has partnered with a local student organization to initiate the Rensselaer Eatery Discount (RED) Card. The RED Card, sold for \$10 each, provides discounts at local restaurants. Proceeds from card sales will go to a local food pantry.

The brotherhood is very optimistic about the events that will unfold in the near future. If you are in town, please stop by the house and introduce yourself to the brothers. Hearing past experiences of alumni never fails to uplift the spirit of the house. On behalf of the active brothers, I would like to thank all of you for your support and dedication to our beloved chapter. Your unmatched passion enables the actives to experience the same joys and success that you encountered during your time here at Rensselaer.

ALUMNI BOARD RETREAT RECAP

Alumni Board Retreat Attendees Focus on Four Main Topics

By Craig Woolhiser '86

This year's annual Alumni Board Retreat meeting was held January 24-25 at the Heffner Alumni House on campus. After updates on house finances, the Second Century Campaign, campus issues, scholarships, and house activities, the board held breakout sessions to discuss four topics: Philanthropy & Campus Activities, Maintenance & Fire Protection, Theta Chi Library/Historical Preservation, and Future of Theta Chi. Each breakout group was comprised of undergraduate and alumni brothers.

After spending a few hours to discuss ideas and develop plans, the board reconvened and each subgroup reported on their discussions.

Philanthropy & Campus Activities: The group set a goal for the undergraduate brothers to participate in one community project and one campus service project per semester. They will aim to maximize exposure and recognition for the events, which should help with rush, by widely publicizing these events through the Polytechnic and local newspapers. Currently, the undergraduates have several events planned or in progress, including the RPI Biggest Loser weight loss competition, with proceeds benefiting the Boys and Girls Club of Troy.

Maintenance & Fire Protection: The group developed a prioritized list of house items requiring repair or replacement. Each item was assigned an owner, and resolution on several items is already in progress.

In addition, the house will prepare for a fire/safety inspection from the Albany Fire Department, and **Travis Krol '96** (fireman, Oneida, NY), has offered to conduct fire safety training at the house twice a year.

Theta Chi Library/Historical Preservation: The group has already met its immediate goal, in February, which was to clean and organize the Dusty Room. The brothers discarded piles of old text books that had accumulated over the years, boxed and labeled numerous photo albums and miscellaneous items, and placed them in safe storage. They also gathered up all composites not currently displayed and stored them in a safe and accessible area. In addition, the team plans to scan 25 years of *Delta Dial* editions, preserving them in electronic format, and to place copies in binders for display in the Dusty Room. Scanning of the homework/test files, into electronic format, is already in progress. The team outlined ways to 'industrialize' the system so it is robust, user-friendly, and sustainable into the future. Finally, to improve communication at the house, the team plans to develop a house calendar/communication board which will highlight upcoming events such as rush, charity, IFC, etc.

Future of Theta Chi: The group discussed the timeline for the 2nd Century Campaign house renovation. Currently, the architecture firm recommends completing the renovation all at the same time, to improve efficiency,



Active President **Charlemagne Balane '10** and Alumni President **Ray Moran '95** working together at the Alumni Board Retreat meeting.

targeting work during summer break, 2011. However, there are areas of the chapter house that require significant on-going maintenance and would benefit from renovation sooner. So, the team agreed the Building Committee should revisit the idea of doing the renovation in phases, targeting some of the high-need areas on an accelerated schedule. The group also brainstormed ways to improve the effectiveness of rush, and outlined ways to strengthen the house through: leadership training, increased campus involvement, and improved documentation of house operations.

It was a highly interactive and enjoyable weekend of meetings. The Alumni Board will work with the undergraduates to move forward on each of these initiatives throughout the year. Progress will be reported in future *Delta Dials*.

SCENES FROM THE CHAPTER

Right: **Matt Kauffman '11** and **Evan O'Brien '11** working at Delta Chapter's Dunk Tank to raise money for cancer research.

Far right: **Gordie Reynolds '09** taking his turn in the dunk tank.



ALUMNI UPDATES

Leonard Bastian '37

(136 Fairway Drive, Lake Placid, FL 33852-8571) On June 8, 2009, I'll hit 94. I'm spending six months in Florida and six months in Indiana. Still playing golf about three times a week and enjoying the Florida weather.

William Germanakos '88

(44 Carol Street, Lynbrook, NY 11563-1124; longislandgerm@aol.com) In case you weren't aware (I was featured in the National Theta Chi Magazine), I won season #4 of "The Biggest Loser" on NBC (reality show for weight loss). For more, check out myspace.com/BillGermanakos or www.weightloss.twins.com for the story and a profile.

We want to hear from you!

Please send us your updates for inclusion in future *Delta Dials*. Please email all profile nominations and alumni updates to content@affinityconnection.com.

BY-LAWS UPDATE

There are Several Updates to the Delta Theta Chi Corporation's By-Laws

As noted in Ray Moran's article, RPI has moved its official Reunion Weekend to the fall, beginning this year. As a result, Delta Theta Chi Corporation's By-Laws need to be revised to reflect that, so our Annual Corporation Meeting will continue to be held in conjunction with RPI's weekend. Right now the By-Laws refer to the "summer Reunion Weekend", so the new language will read as proposed below.

In addition, when the number of alumni board members was increased from 6 to 8 in 1999 we failed to increase the quorum numbers accordingly; that new language is proposed below as well.

According to Article VIII of the existing By-Laws, these proposed amendments need approval by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all members present

at the Annual Meeting, which this year will be October 4, 2009.

The proposed changed sections would read as follows:

ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS

Section 1. The Annual Meeting of the Corporation shall be held in connection with the Reunion Weekend of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, after written notice has been given to each member at least thirty (30) days in advance.

Section 7. For purposes of meetings of the Board of Directors, whether regular or special, six (6) members, at least four (4) of which are Alumni members, shall constitute a quorum.

973-043 SN

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at Rensselaer

Delta Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity



See Inside for Details...

Second Century Campaign Reaches 93% of Its Goal!

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