

With Alumni Support, Active Chapter Gains Strength

Brothers of Theta Chi:

This letter is to thank all of you who responded generously to our appeal for additional financial resources requested in the last issue of the *Delta Dial* sent in December 2000. Your support has amounted to just over \$15,600 so far, and much of this has been used to finance long-overdue maintenance projects and general upgrades to the chapter house. Projects such as kitchen and plumbing repairs, purchase of new tables and chairs, roof and chimney repairs, and repainting of the halls and living area have been undertaken, and most have been completed as of this writing. All of these actions are needed to prepare the house for the expected increased level of brothers living in next year and to successfully attract new pledges.

Your support has enabled us to take this first step, but we are still far away from our goal to return the capital improvement fund to the \$100,000 level that existed prior to the hazing incident. Increasing your support will enable the current and future brothers to have an adequate environment to grow our brotherhood.

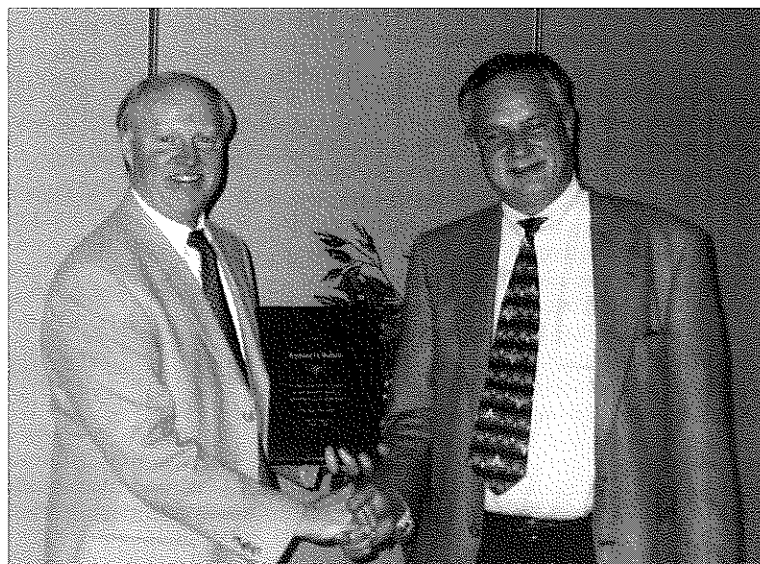
Since the last *Dial*, much has happened. In late January, after a one-year lapse, the board held its annual retreat with the new and outgoing undergraduate officers. The purpose of the meeting is to set goals for the coming year, develop strong working relationships between the undergraduates and the board, and clarify expectations for all involved. This year, for the first time, four initiated freshmen attended and provided their perspectives on new students' views of fraternities in general and Theta Chi in particular. As can be seen in Pat Doyle's article, a spring rush was held, and eight new brothers were initiated in early April. The brothers held two big events this semester (Sweethearts Dinner and Parents Weekend), the first such events in two years. The brothers now are actively involved in campus activities and community service and have developed a very positive relationship with the Dean of Students Office.

Moving forward, I am very encouraged with the quality of the brotherhood and the direction of the chapter's future. I'm also very grateful for all the alumni support, both financially and by those of you who volunteered your time. My term as board member and president expires this June, and I am very optimistic that the improvement in the chapter will continue.

Fraternally,
Ray Rumanowski '73
President
Delta Theta Chi Corporation

P.S. As the notice on page three states, the corporation's annual meeting will be held Sunday, June 10, 2001, at the chapter house at 10:00 a.m. This is also RPI's Reunion Weekend, so we encourage any of you visiting Troy to attend the meeting or visit the house anytime that weekend.

*Corporation
Board
President Ray
Rumanowski
'73 thanks
Rich Bollam
'66 for all of
his hard work
on behalf of
Delta Chapter.
For the full
story, turn to
page three.*



Chapter's Future Looks Bright

Alumni Brothers of Delta Chapter:

I'm pleased to be writing my first *Dial* article as president of Delta Chapter. I was elected in January and am a junior computer science major, currently working on a co-op assignment at Synquest Inc. in Clifton Park, New York.

When spring semester started, a lot of questions remained unanswered. We had numerous events on the horizon: a Sweethearts Dinner, a difficult spring rush, and a large-scale Parents Weekend. The house as a whole knew that if we could have a strong semester, we would be well on our way to being back on top.

We had just finished a good fall semester; thanks to outgoing President Keith Bedell. In the fall, we pledged and initiated 11 new brothers, had a brother elected as IFC rush chairman, and our house GPA was one of the highest on campus. We showed that we were serious about becoming the best house on campus, but we had not yet achieved our goal.

Our first and most important goal was to conduct a successful spring rush. We had good results in the fall (especially considering we only had 18 brothers living in), but spring semester rush is a different game. There are no formal IFC spring rush standards, and most men who pledge a fraternity have already done so in the fall. But we went all-out and ended up pledging and initiating eight new men this spring semester. We are all proud that we have found 19 new brothers this year, almost doubling our numbers.

In February, we held Sweethearts Dinner, our first formal in two years. Around 60 attended, and the night was a huge success. The experience gave all of us the confidence that we could pull off a Parents Dinner. A successful Parents Dinner was a huge goal of the house when the semester began. None of our parents have ever been to the house for a dinner, and some have never even been to the house at all. A hundred and twenty guests attended the dinner. Finding a cook was easy: a mother who works as a chef volunteered to cook the entire dinner. The night was a huge success, setting a great precedent for future Parents Weekends.

As the spring semester comes to a close, all of the brothers are excited about the prospects that are ahead of us. We are not there yet, but we will be. I want to personally assure all alumni and supporters that we, as undergraduate brothers, are past the rough times and foresee a bright future. The sky is the limit for us at 2100 Burdett, and we are working our hardest to once again rise to the top.

Pat Doyle '02

Scholarship Fund Continues To Grow

You may recall that in last fall's *Dial*, we reported that in spite of our self-imposed "hold" on fundraising, the scholarship fund had still grown nicely due to the excellent investment returns that had been achieved by RPI's endowment funds. Needless to say, the results have been less spectacular since then, with all the problems being experienced by the stock markets recently. However, on a December-to-December basis, the fund still showed an impressive increase in market value, increasing by over 20 percent to around \$192,000 as of December 31, 2000. Under RPI's spending formula (a conservative four-year calculation), the budgeted dollars available for distribution to Delta Chapter brothers for the 2001-2002 school year has increased by over 30 percent from

this year, so our scholarship committee is looking forward to reviewing next year's applications, and we will tell you about the award winners in the next issue.

Concerning fundraising, the alumni board continues to feel that active fundraising may detract from direct dues support by alumni of the chapter, which is still the number-one priority. However, I should note that we are starting to see a few contributions coming in for this fund, and as long as it is not at the expense of our regular dues program, we are happy to get it! The current plan is to revive our policy of annually acknowledging gifts to this valuable long-term program in the fall issue of the *Dial*.

Rich Bollam '66

Brothers Make House Repairs

Painting And Plumbing Top The List Of Improvements

At the Sagamore Retreat, we and the alumni held extensive discussions about renovations and repairs needed at the chapter house, which began soon thereafter.

With the help of brothers Brian Blackmar, Luke Thompson, Drew Slocum, Keith Bedell, Matt Hayes, and me, work started in the basement. The first project, which had to be done immediately due to a recent fire inspection, was the laundry room. All lint was scraped off the walls, and then it was painted. We also attached water lint filters to prevent this from occurring again.

Next we moved to the old weight room and removed all broken equipment. We also painted the walls and floors. Behind the bar we tore out the vinyl floor and painted it gray. Between the weight room and the laundry room we constructed a wall to give the rooms some separation.

Once this was completed, we began renovating both bathrooms. In the women's bathroom we started by tearing the wallpaper off the walls. This left a thick glue residue, which needed to be scraped off. After the walls were smooth, we repaired the holes in the walls. The ceiling also had a damaged sheetrock panel, which was replaced. Lastly we primed and painted the walls. In the men's bathroom we constructed a drop ceiling and replaced the fluorescent light unit. Extensive plumbing was also done in both bathrooms.

We also replaced about 90 percent of the drop ceiling in the main basement room. All brothers helped in painting the walls and ceiling of this room, and some floor tiles were replaced by brother Robert McGee.

Other renovations and repairs were done in the remainder of the house, begin-

ning in the kitchen. The stove unit needed to be inspected and repaired, since it didn't work at all at the beginning of the semester. The repairs consisted of replacing thermal couplers, safety valves, handles, and knobs. The stove is now fully operational. The kitchen sinks were clogged, and as a result, one of the sink pipes blew out at the joint. Repairs were completed on the pipe and the clog, and no water damage was caused. Lastly, in the kitchen the dishwasher began to leak at a pipe joint, and new PVC pipe was installed.

The plumbing throughout the rest of the house was attacked as follows: all sink connections in the first-floor bathrooms were repaired; three showers were replaced; the second-floor shower drain was snaked; and two urinals were repaired.

Other projects we will be undertaking over the next few months include:

- painting the hallways;
- renovating all unoccupied rooms by August 2001;
- increasing house security;
- increasing house fire safety;
- painting the outside stairways and floor median;
- buying tables and chairs;
- buying a new lawnmower;
- renovating the shed by the dumpster.

The brothers of Delta Chapter of Theta Chi will continue making the chapter house as strong as possible.

Fraternally yours,

Nathan Doyle '02, House Manager
Luke Thompson '02, Activities Chairman

Corporation Board Honors Rich Bollam '66

At its last board meeting in January, Ray Rumanowski '73, as president of Delta Theta Chi Corporation's board, presented Rich Bollam '66 with an attractive plaque commemorating his many accomplishments for the fraternity. The list of these is impressive, and it is hard to determine which feats are more important than others; in summary, they are:

RPI Scholarship Program

While trying to drum up interest among members of the class of '66 for their 30th RPI reunion in early 1996, Rich kept hearing that his classmates were both willing and able to give something back to Theta Chi, and also (to a lesser degree in most cases) to RPI. After getting a few leads, he contacted several other universities about scholarship programs and then designed a program working with RPI's Development Office. The program allows Theta Chi alumni to donate money to RPI (tax-deductible and generally qualified for employer gift matching programs) and have it designated to the Theta Chi Scholarship Fund. Income from the fund can only be used to award scholarships to Theta Chi undergrads. Rich immediately organized the entire fundraising effort to contact our alumni for contributions and ended up raising over \$100,000 in the next 24 months. This fund has now grown through additional contributions and appreciation to a current level of \$192,000, and scholarships in the total amount of over \$6,000 will be awarded for the coming school year. RPI has some mixed emotions about programs like this; they bring in money from sources that might otherwise not contribute, but there is also a concern (which Rich feels is unfounded) that they take away from unrestricted giving. Since Rich first developed the Theta Chi program, RPI has insisted that subsequent Greek-related programs like ours have much more restrictive terms and have higher dollar thresholds to get started. This program is a unique marketing tool for the brothers and an incredible accomplishment by Rich.

Collection Plan

Collection of room and board fees from the actives became increasingly difficult through the 1990s, and the corporation board faced complicated decisions as to how to solve this problem. Rich heard about a plan enacted by Syracuse University in

which the university stepped in and prevented the awarding of grades to any fraternity member who hadn't paid his room and board in full by the end of each semester. Rich did his usual thorough research on this before he started discussing the program with RPI, and after much foot-dragging over several years by the school, RPI finally agreed to adopt the program. It has gone into effect this semester for the first time, and now the problems of collection have been basically eliminated. RPI's reluctance was understandable, since the school was not responsible for collecting the room and board in the first place; but once again it ran into a person so committed about the idea and so relentless in his pursuit of it that the conclusion was inevitable. This is a program that will greatly enhance the financial condition of the fraternity.

Alumni Marketing Letter

As Rich was on the phones raising money for the scholarship fund, he gradually realized how successful many of our alumni were and wondered how the undergrad brothers could use this information to their advantage during rush. He also kept hearing all the "negatives" about Greek life that seem to make the headlines, with the positives never getting mentioned. Thus was born the idea of an alumni marketing letter, which Rich volunteered to spearhead. As usual with projects he undertakes for the fraternity, this one came in ahead of schedule and much better than anyone expected. It's a simple four-page document addressed to a prospective brother and his parents and is meant to be used as soon as bids are given out. The topics discussed are all designed not only to put the parents at ease about fraternities, but also to convince them how great Theta Chi is in particular. It highlights leadership training, alumni support, the availability of our RPI scholarship, the strength of the physical plant and the convenience of its location on campus, the oppor-

tunity to develop important interpersonal and social skills, and the existence of the vast Theta Chi alumni network. It concludes with four heartfelt testimonials from Greg Hughes '67, Greg Seleman '72, Dom Conde '82 and Scott Ogeka '97 relating how much the Theta Chi experience meant to them. The document is a perfect rush tool, and the response from parents has been very positive. It is doubtful that any other fraternity at RPI has anything like this.

House Mortgage

As the corporation board was planning the house renovations in the late 1980s and successfully raising about \$100,000 in donations from alumni, one key ingredient remained unsolved: how to convince a bank to lend a fraternity the large remaining amounts needed. In stepped Rich, and through his contacts from his CPA firm we were able to get a \$280,000 mortgage to complete the renovation plans. It can't be emphasized enough what an accomplishment this was given the lending environment at the time. Indeed, the mortgage has been refinanced at lower rates twice since then, with Rich's help, despite the occupancy problems in the house recently.

In addition to all these outstanding accomplishments, Rich has served two terms on the alumni corporation board of directors ('87-'89 and '97-'00); he is currently serving as a member of the Rensselaer Alumni Association Board; he played an active and influential role during the hazing incident in spring 1999, especially in our dealings with Theta Chi National's Risk Management Committee; and he continues to harass the City of Troy to get our taxes reduced.

In short, Rich has served Delta Chapter in every capacity imaginable and volunteered for and completed tough project after tough project. His contributions have been invaluable, and we all hope he continues to remain an active Theta Chi alumnus.

CORPORATION TO MEET

The annual corporation board meeting will be held on **Sunday, June 10, 2001, at 10:00 a.m.** at the chapter house, **2100 Burdett Avenue**. We invite and encourage any Theta Chi alumni who live in or will be visiting the area to attend the meeting.

NOMINATIONS: In accordance with the bylaws of Delta Theta Chi Corporation, the following alumni have been nominated for election to the board of directors. Their four-year term will end in June 2005.

Ned Van Heuvel '67, Greg Dietrich '96

Δ Dial is 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.

Alumni Write

After a career in engineering, JAMES G. ARMSTEAD '31 retired in 1971. He and wife Lila then enjoyed a dozen years of traveling by Airstream travel trailer, spending their winters in Arizona and their summers in Greeneville, Tennessee. They now live in an assisted living community in Fort Collins, Colorado (Diamond Crest, 1225 Redwood St., 80524).

E. ROBERT EATON '40 can be reached at 2643 Liberty Parkway, Baltimore, MD 21222, or at janeteaton@webtv.net. He's retired from Bethlehem Steel Corporation.

"I'd love to hear from brothers from the classes of '36 to '43," writes DOUGLAS W. RONALDSON '40, whose address is Apt. 101, 3991 Windward Passage Circle, Bonita Springs, FL 34134 (waysidc35@aol.com).

FRED L. CROSSMAN '43 makes his home at 2487 Dick Wilson Dr., Sarasota, FL 34240.

For the last 29 years, ROBERT L. STALEY '56 has worked as a partner for the mechanical consulting engineering firm Fosdick & Hilmer in Cincinnati. He reports that a group of brothers from '56 are planning to rendezvous in Troy for a 45-year reunion in June 2001. For more information, contact him at 242 Elm Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45215.

W. GENE TUCKER '64 retired from the EPA in January 2000 after 32 years of doing research on air pollution and its control. Shortly thereafter he started teaching environmental science courses at James Madison University, which he's enjoying tremendously. Send him your regards at wgtruck@mindspring.com or at 5129 Huntington Dr., Raleigh, NC 27606.

PETER N. KROEGER '65 works for Millennium Inorganic Chemicals in Brussels, Belgium, where he oversees sales to the company's major coatings customers worldwide as well as to the paper industry throughout Europe. He writes, "I am engaged to a wonderful lady who is an executive with one of the world's largest specialty chemical companies. My daughter is a pilot with Continental Airlines, is married, and lives in Southern Pines, North Carolina." Mail reaches Pete at 37 Av D'Italie, 1050 Brussels, BELGIUM (pkroeger@mic-cvr.com).

KURT D. HOLLASCH '67 wrote in January that he was returning to the U.S. after one year in Tokyo. His new address is 6780 Bear Ridge Rd., Lockport, NY 14094 (kurt_d_hollasch@yahoo.com).

MARK P. RICE '71 is pleased to report that

his new book, *Radical Innovation: How Mature Companies Can Outsmart Upstarts*, has been published by Harvard Business School Press. He hopes to see many of his Theta Chi classmates at their 30-year reunion this June. Drop him a line at ricem@rpi.edu or at 21 Middle Hill Rd., Troy, NY 12180.

"We were at a Christmas party with TERRY J. and Tee ATHERTON '69," writes PETER M. WALLACK '71 (173 Whiting St., Hingham, MA 02043; pew173@aol.com). "Our wives have been best of friends for the last 26 years. Terry and I have done some cruising and racing sailboats since 1974 and are starting to take golf seriously." The Wallacks also met LARRY and Barby MAVER '71 for dinner in Boston "and talked for four hours."

Kudos to DAVID HALWIG '71 on his recent appointment to senior vice president for Latin America, public sector, with KPMG Consulting. He spends most of his time in Mexico, Argentina, and Brazil and is finding it "all very challenging; all fun." His address is 212 E. Alexandria Dr., Alexandria, VA 22301 (dhalwig@kpmg.com).

GREGORY J. SELEMAN '72 reports that KURT WOODWARD '75 and PETE GILLIES '89 have joined him as partners in the architectural firm of Woodward Connor Gillies & Seleman, Architects, located in Albany, New York. In addition, MIKE PHINNEY '94 is a project architect with the firm. Write to Greg at 38 Hills Rd., Albany, NY 12211, or at gseleman@gjspc.com.

When his former employer, GPU, decided to broker energy instead of make it, DANA W. COVILL '73 went to work for Enercon Services, an engineering company from Oklahoma that was forming a new office in New Jersey. Now "empty nesters," Dana and his wife take trailer trips to visit son Kyle (24) in Beaufort, South Carolina, and son Ian (19) in Great Lakes, Illinois. Brothers in the New York City or northern New Jersey area are invited to call on Dana at 105 Tomahawk Trail, Sparta, NJ 07871 (dcovill@enercon.com).

STEPHEN D. MYERS '75 reports a new address of 87 Eden Park Dr., North Attleboro, MA 02760 (themyersfamily@mediaone.net).

"On December 6, 2000, my wife treated me to a surprise 40th birthday party," writes LEW D. FRENCH III '83 (510 Hoydens Hill Rd., Fairfield, CT 06430; texdoc@optonline.net). "In attendance were TOM FENNIMAN '82 and his wife and son, JOHN WHITCOMB '83, CHRISTOPHER REILLEY '83, and GUY BARRETT FORD JR. '83." Four days earlier Lew had helped to celebrate FRAN LUKA-CZYK's ('82) 40th in Oswego, New York, where he saw ALEX BOTHWELL JR. '82.

Mary Jo and ROBERT "Rip" COLLINS '85

welcomed their fourth child, Henry Joseph, on November 30, 2000. Congratulate them at 539 Hilaire Rd., St. Davids, PA 19087 (ripnj@bellatlantic.net).

CHRISTOPHER J. MATTEI '90 lives at 22425 Greenview Parkway, Great Mills, MD 20634, with his wife, Jenn, and their two-year-old daughter, Megan. E-mail reaches him at 7565@aol.com.

Last year, JOHN W. HILL '92 and his wife, Carie, welcomed their second son, Blake William. John works as a project manager for Guys Floor Service. "Life is busy," reports John, "and business is booming!" Write to him at johnh@guysfloor.com or at 11260 W. Belmont Ave., Littleton, CO 80127.

"Just switched careers from engineering consulting to construction management," writes FRANK LIST '92, who's now employed by Bovis Lend Lease in Manhattan. Mail reaches him at 356 W. 44th St., Apt. 5A, New York, NY 10036 (francisl@sprintmail.com).

Wedding bells rang last fall for MICHAEL R. PHINNEY '94 and his girlfriend of four years, Marci Clark. They honeymooned in Italy and now live at 104 Catherine St., Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. Over the past three years "Phin" has worked with fellow Delta Chapter alumni GREG SELEMAN '72, KURT WOODWARD '75, and PETE GILLIES '89 in their Albany-based architecture firm. His e-mail address is mphinney@gjspc.com.

CHRISTOPHER J. MASTERGEORGE '95 moved to Philadelphia in 1998 to start an Internet company, which recently merged with a more traditional publishing company. He hangs out with JOE CATINO '94, who is doing a surgical residency in Philly, and with TOM LIAKOS '98, who's in his third year of med school. Chris can be reached at cmastergeorge@aroundcampusinc.com or at 10 Montgomery Ave., B1, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004.

BRYAN J. McDONALD '95 (2808 Bluejay Dr., Cedar Park, TX 78613) reports a new e-mail address of mcdona_98@yahoo.com.

MICHAEL C. MUCCI '96 and his bride, Erin Butler, have bought a home at 5 Westland Dr., Tewksbury, MA 01876. E-mail reaches Mike at mmucci@intecap.com.

DECEASED

We regret to report the death of WARREN A. GARDNER '44 (*February 13, 2001*), ROBERT N. GREENE JR. '35 (*July 28, 2000*), CHARLES S. JEWETT '37 (*July 9, 2000*), JOSHUA H. SKINNER '36 (*March 13, 1998*), WILLIAM A. WAHL '57 (*November 7, 2000*), and RAYMOND C. WIEBOLDT JR. '41 (*October 31, 1999*).