

Sunday, June 10, 2007

Annual Corporation Board Meeting

10 a.m. at the Chapter House
(2100 Burdett Ave.)

We encourage alumni to attend the meeting. **Craig Woolhiser '86** and **Nathan Doyle '02** have been nominated for 4-year terms on the board of directors.

THE DELTA DIAL

May 2007

Delta Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity at Rensselaer

Alumni Profile

Pushing the Envelope

Mike Ciminera '59 Dedicates Himself to Lending a Helping Hand

Some young men look to the sky and envision themselves as pilots, exploring the endless skies. As a boy, **Mike Ciminera '59** also looked skyward, but his aspiration was to help "push the envelope" by designing new generations of aircraft that could take pilots to heights and attain speeds few could have imagined. As he approaches the 50th year of his distinguished career in aerospace, Mike's journey serves as an example of how dreams can be realized while remembering to "lend a helping hand" to those who follow.

Mike's love for designing aircraft began well before he arrived at RPI. At age 13, he was submitting designs to aircraft companies like Grumman for review, and by 1955 he was riveting airplanes in Grumman's shop as an engineering student apprentice.

Mike feels that he "grew up" at RPI thanks in part to becoming a brother in Theta Chi. "It was a wonderful fraternity and we had a great freshman class" he remembers fondly. "Through the years they helped me mature. I still keep in touch with **Byron Buell '59**, **Chuck Urmson '59**, **Matt Healy**, **Jerry Burchett '59**, **Joel Walker '60**, and **Bob McIntosh**."

After receiving his Aero degree, Mike spent most of the 60's in Grumman's Advanced Systems Department performing preliminary design studies of advanced aircraft while earning his Aero MS. After six years in the legendary F-14 program, Mike was put in charge of the entire department. His talent continued to be recognized as he rose through the Grumman

organization by assuming increasingly responsible positions between 1976 and 1989, to become VP of Advanced Programs at Grumman. During those years, Mike led design efforts that produced many notable developments, including the revolutionary X-29 forward swept wing aircraft. He also managed Grumman's Advanced Fusion program. "This was an exciting time for me," he says, "since I was involved in all aspects of advanced technology development and new programs while helping young people grow. The deal is to help others when you get there. Early on, I was taken under the wing of the VP and Chief Designer of the F-14 program, who said, 'If you can carry the load [and reach upper management], it's then your obligation to help others grow.'" Mike continued to excel, and became VP of the Systems Group where he was involved in the operations of the Electronics, Space, JSTARS, and Space Station Integration Divisions. In the mid to late 90's, he ran the JPATS, F-18C/D, and JSTARS (Lake Charles, Louisiana) Programs. Although now retired, Mike remains an active Senior Consultant for the company and still enjoys "working in the trenches with the troops."



Mike and Donna Ciminera

on him. "I'll never forget him for giving me a chance," Mike says. "When I received the scholarship, I promised that when I graduated I would dedicate myself to helping other young students."

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Mike has made good on that promise many times over. Currently, he chairs the Dean's Advisory Council for the School of Engineering, which brings him back to campus frequently, and has been President of the RPI Long Island Alumni Association and, fittingly, Chair of its Scholarship Committee. He has also served in key Annual Fund leadership roles and gave the opening Convocation address to the incoming Class of 2007. Mike is a member of the B. F. Greene Society of Patroons and Rensselaer's Heritage Society. He mentors students at RPI, supports the Patroon Scholarship program, and has received the RAA Fellows and Alumni Key Awards. With his wife Donna, Mike established the Donna M. and Michael V. Ciminera '59 Full Tuition Scholarship in Aerospace Engineering.

Now married 38 years, Donna and Mike continue to enjoy very busy, full lives. Their daughter Victoria and husband Paul live in San Diego with grandson Brendan. Donna is very involved with several large charitable organizations and animal rescue while Mike serves on the board of Legacy Engineering and is also a Hot Food Ministry leader of their church. They enjoy traveling and Mike enjoys golf and gardening.

The desire to "lend a helping hand" has always been part of Mike's character. The son of an Italian immigrant, he couldn't have afforded Rensselaer if it weren't for the Long Island RPI Alumni Scholarship. The help of dedicated alumni like the late **Charlie Harper '37** had a lasting influence

Undergrad President's Report

Spring Semester is Active and Productive Theta Chi Awarded a 4-Star Awards of Excellence Rating

By Brandon Bradley '07



This spring semester has been extremely productive and has brought about great potential for the upcoming fall semester. The transition of the new undergraduate executive board was a success and we had the most productive winter alumni retreat that I have seen in my tenure here. Throughout the semester, the undergraduate brotherhood has focused on addressing issues regarding the house itself. We understand that we need to improve the "marketability" of the house to promote a strong rush program. So far this semester we have painted the hallways and polished the wood paneling in the main foyer. Also, we have gone through the house and collected as many composites from previous

years as we could find and hung them throughout the house. This gives us a great sense of pride, as we are now reminded daily of the roots and long history of Delta Chapter.

Parents Weekend this year was especially successful. We hosted a dinner at the house for the parents and families of each active brother. After the dinner, the entire brotherhood along with their families traveled to the local Uncle Sam's bowling alley for two hours of bowling sponsored by the house. The entire event was a great example of upholding the traditions and ideals of the brotherhood. We all felt tremendously proud to be able to host our parents for the weekend and show them a little bit of what Theta Chi is all about.

To finish out the semester the brothers planned a joint philanthropic event with the sisters from Pi Beta Phi. We sponsored a

Dunk Tank on campus on April 26th. All of the proceeds went to Relay for Life, which was a campus-wide event that took place the following day.

As you may know, the Dean of Student's Office (DOSO) uses a 5-star *Awards of Excellence* program to evaluate Greek organizations at RPI. The system applies a numerical value to each organization's performance across a number of areas (grades, philanthropy, campus involvement, attendance at required meetings, alumni participation, risk management, and so on). This year Theta Chi has been awarded a 4 star ("Very Good") rating. Although there's always room for improvement, this is a very fine result which upholds Delta Chapter's proud tradition of campus involvement and leadership.

The entire brotherhood is proud of the accomplishments we have made this past semester. We are extremely excited about the potential for the upcoming fall rush. Everyone is anxious to make it back in the fall early to properly prepare and to continue the traditions and ideals of Delta Chapter.

Alumni Updates

'30s

Leonard Bastian '37

(100 Fairway Court, Lake Placid, FL 33852) I remarried 10/1/2004 to Marjorie Bultiers Bastian. We live at 2025 W. Glenbrook Dr., Connerville, IN 47331 May through October and at 100 Fairway Ct., Lake Placid, FL 33852 November through April.

'60s

Richard Stiegitz '67

(8513 Rapley Preserve Cir., Potomac, MD 20854; dickstieglitz@aol.com) 2006 was a year of big changes. I sold the company that I started in 1984 and am now retired with my wife Mary Ellen in Potomac, MD. I also published my first book, "Taming the Dragons of Change--10 Tips for Achieving Happiness and Success When Everything

Around You is Changing." The book is available at amazon.com, borders.com, and barnes&noble.com if you are interested. I can be contacted at dickstieglitz@aol.com.

'70s

John Bidosky III '75

(PO Box 274, Mountainville, NY 10953; jbidosky@americanbridge.net) **Jake Bidosky '75** has accepted a position in American Bridge's Corporate Headquarters in Coraopolis, PA and has hooked up with a good friend and fraternity brother, **Vincent Ricciardi '76** who lives in Coraopolis. Brothers traveling in the Pittsburgh area might be able to talk Jake and Vinchenz into a reunion cocktail. American Bridge's telephone number is 412-631-1000.

Curtis Busch '76

(264 Carey Lane, Jeffersonville, PA 19403; cbusch@ntnusa.com) The "Buschman" is still selling bearings after thirty years in the business. For the past ten years, I have worked for NTN Bearings as the Northeast Regional Manager. "The best days are still in the field seeing new applications." Life is good in

Pennsylvania with Susan and teenagers Megan and Brian!

'90s

Christopher Mattei '90

(1408 Essex Circle, Ridgecrest, CA 93555; mattei7565@yahoo.com) We have moved again--life in the marine corps! Myself, Jenn, and our children (Megan, Mark and Cal) now live in Ridgecrest CA, aboard Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake.

Michael Malling '97

(21752 Regents Park Circle, Sterling, VA 20166-9231; malling_michael@hotmail.com) I live in Sterling, VA with my wife Julie and 10-month-old daughter Jayne. We are expecting our second in March and are still trying to decide if we are ambitious or just stupid having two kids only one year apart. I'm a software developer for a medical transcription company in Annapolis MD. Wiz, Alford, Lato, and I get together on a regular basis for poker nights, so if there are any other brothers in the DC metro area interested in playing or just grabbing a drink, send me an e-mail at malling_michael@hotmail.com.

Input Sought for Book on History of Delta Chapter *Share Your Memories of Your Time at the House*

By Paul Silhan '71

“The brothers were an interesting mix of guys who’d come to RPI straight out of high school and guys who’d returned from fighting World War II. The war had ended in August of 1945. RPI, on a wartime schedule, had started its academic year early *in July*. We celebrated VJ Day at Roberts Dormitory, having had a special lecture on nuclear weapons by a faculty physicist right after the bomb dropped on Hiroshima.”

- **Richard Goodspeed '49**

Delta Chapter, founded at Rensselaer on September 25, 1908, is fast approaching its Centennial celebration. To commemorate this once-in-a-lifetime event, I am leading an effort on behalf of the Alumni Board to compose and publish a hard cover book that recounts the history of Delta Chapter. The goal is to create a “coffee table” book that Brothers would be proud to own. Any brother would be able to purchase a copy at a very modest price thanks to today’s “on demand” publishing capabilities.

Richard Goodspeed '49 provided the above remarks, as well as many more interesting anecdotes, in response to a trial round of emails sent to Delta’s more senior alumni whose email addresses were known. The response produced encouraging results. For example, in addition to sending the picture collection regarding the Second Street chapter house shown below, **Skip Charles '55** wrote:

IN MEMORIAM

Since the publication of the last Delta Dial, we have learned of the passing of brother

Charles Adasczik '72.

Theta Chi mourns the loss of brother Adasczik and extends our sympathy to his friends and family.”

“I have many fond memories of life at 52nd Second St. We were a ‘straight arrow’ house with no liquor or beer allowed except in the basement bar on party weekends. I remember an interminable house meeting when some Brothers wanted to sunbathe on the roof with a six pack -- they reasoned that if they used a rope to bring it up they would not be breaking house rules. They were turned down.

And everyone in '54 and '55 remembers the maraschino cherry pie that Fred, the cook, baked. It was inedible but we didn't want to hurt his feelings, so the remains were collected and taken through the alley and around back to the trash bins.”

- **Skip Charles '55**

Great stuff! But to successfully create the book, we'll need to obtain input from brothers of *all* decades about what life was like when they were at the House. This can take many forms:

- Pictures of any kind of you and/or any brothers or events associated with Delta Chapter or RPI.
- Anecdotes concerning special or everyday events such as trips together, parties, humorous happenings, practical jokes, names of Sweethearts of Theta Chi, pledge pranks, weddings, reunions, initiations, events on campus, honors bestowed upon Brothers, notable sports or academic

accomplishments of yourself or other brothers, etc.

- Scanned images of your RPI Transit yearbook that show the brothers (perhaps a composite photo) or individual pictures, or scanned images of your own copy of your composite photos.
- Memorabilia from your days at Delta Chapter, RPI or simply life in general at that time, such as old RPI or Troy newspapers, old copies of the Delta Dial, your Bid Letter, your RPI beanie (remember them?), your RPI sports jersey, etc.

Not everyone has kept memorabilia, of course, but everyone has kept memories of their “active” Delta Chapter days. They may seem trivial to you, but you’d be surprised at how other brothers would be interested in reading about your unique recollections of the common experience that binds us all together. Please share the history of “your days” at Delta Chapter with the entire brotherhood, by sending them by email to **Paul Silhan '71** at paulsilhan@hotmail.com. We can't create the book without you...so “thanks” in advance!



President's Report

Another Busy Winter Season

Make Your Plans for the Alumni Weekend Festivities

By Greg Willmott '87 (Wilmo); President, Delta Theta Chi Corporation
gwillmot@nycap.rr.com

Greetings again. I hope that this edition of the Delta Dial finds everyone doing well. As always, many things are keeping the board busy. I'll do my best to summarize the high points.

Another successful active/alumni Retreat was held in late January. We focused on several areas with Rush being a key area of interest as we are now fully into Alcohol-Free Housing (AFH) mode. This year we changed the venue and held it at the Hefner Alumni House on campus rather than at The Sagamore in Lake George. The change in venue was significant in that it allowed us to be closer to the chapter house so that we could include more of the actives and even provided the board members the ability to attend one of the weekly house meetings. The change also allowed us to reduce the cost of the retreat as we want to be fiscally prudent as we enter into the early phases of our Capital Campaign.

Speaking of the Capital Campaign, **Rich Bollam '66** and **Terry Jones '66** are spearheading this project and gaining some good early momentum. I encourage everyone to check the chapter website (www.deltachapter-thetachi.org), your mailbox, and future *Delta Dials* for additional details on how you can support this important effort.

You may remember that a year ago I wrote about the Greek Life Initiatives that the school's administration had announced. These covered three main areas – under age drinking, the Rush calendar, and “live-in” advisors. Due to the strong reaction from the Greek community, none of these initiatives has yet to be enacted. It appears that the “live-in” advisor idea will be dropped from consideration due to its impracticality for many of the houses on campus. However, we do expect a revamped alcohol policy to be adopted in the near term and the Rush

calendar will be revisited after the fall rush.

SAVE THE DATE – October 19 & 20, 2007 – ALUMNI WEEKEND.

After the success of last year's Alumni Weekend, we are looking forward to this year's event. Last year over 50 brothers returned to Troy for the festivities. This year, as we are holding it in conjunction with RPT's homecoming (since they were nice enough to schedule it in conjunction with a home football game), we are hopeful for an even bigger turnout. Look for additional details but **save the date!** – October 19 & 20, 2007.

Lastly, I am writing this article with a somewhat heavy heart as it has been only days since the tragic incident at Virginia Tech. I am sure that much more will be known about the events of that day when you read this then are known now. However, it is safe to say that the hearts and prayers from the entire brotherhood of Theta Chi go out to those affected by the events of that day.

As always, it is great to hear from each of you. Please stay involved and participate however you can, the brotherhood will only be strengthened by your efforts.



Book on the History of Delta Chapter to be Published. Include Your Memories! Details on Page 2.

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Delta Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity



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