

# Alumni Board Pleased With Active Chapter's Progress

Brothers of Theta Chi,

I hope this article finds everybody doing well. The alumni board and actives had a successful board meeting in September. The meeting was held on the Sunday after our annual "Alumni Weekend" event. The event was a great success this year, as you will see from the details provided in Ramses Jimenez's column.

I'd like to acknowledge the fine jobs the active brothers have done rebuilding the chapter over the last couple of years. The house occupancy is close to forty brothers—which is a significant accomplishment when you consider that the house occupancy was as low as eight not too long ago. The undergraduates are doing well academically and are in good standing on campus and with the National Fraternity, and the finances are stable. These accomplishments should not be taken lightly given the added stresses and constraints the chapter is faced with nowadays.

While it's important to take a moment to reflect on how much progress has been made and on our accomplishments to date, it's equally important that we not get complacent. To that end, we are committed to refocusing and developing a plan to take us to the next level. The next board meeting, which will be a two-day retreat in January at the Sagamore in Lake George, will serve as a collaborative and interactive session between the alumni board and the newly elected active officers. We will use this forum to set common, agreed-upon goals and objectives for the future.

In corporation board news, two of the alumni corporation board members completed their terms in June. They were Terry Jones '66, who was the board president the past two years, and Mike Phinney '95. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank them for the instrumental roles they played throughout their four-year terms on the board. They clearly had a direct impact on the success the chapter has been able to achieve during our critical rebuilding period. Terry will be continuing his involvement with the board in an advisory role focused on capital fundraising. You will certainly be hearing more about this initiative over the next year.

Two new members were added to the board at the June meeting. They are Scott Virkler '87 and Bill McIntyre '74. With the addition of these alumni brothers, the alumni members of the corporation board are now:

Greg Dietrich '96, President  
John Auletta '93, Vice President  
Mike Emr '93, Secretary  
Lew (Tex) French '83  
Ned Van Heuvel '67  
Dan McGovern '98  
Bill McIntyre '74  
Scott Virkler '87

In addition, there are several dedicated alumni we could not get along without. They serve as corporation officers or advisors in the following capacities:

Rich Boroway '73, Treasurer  
Rich Bollam '66, Scholarship Fund Advisor  
Marc Dickie '88, Chapter Maintenance Advisor

Greg Hughes '67, Faculty Advisor  
Terry Jones '66, Capital Fundraising Advisor  
Ev Molony '63, Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Fund Manager  
Ray Rumanowski '73, Chapter Advisor  
Drew Spitzer '96, Chapter Financial Advisor

I'd like to take this opportunity to cite the efforts of two alumni advisors, Marc Dickie and Rich Boroway, who have made truly extraordinary contributions to the chapter over the last year. In his role as maintenance advisor, Marc Dickie has been tireless in his efforts to ensure the physical plant is in safe and working order. Marc is empowered to manage the annual maintenance budget and identify areas of need, obtain vendor quotes and estimates, make vendor selections, and oversee the execution of projects. After implementation of projects, Marc ensures that the undergraduate house manager establishes proper ongoing operational and maintenance procedures to sustain the benefits of the projects. He has worked on numerous projects including bathrooms, plumbing, kitchen, electrical, fire safety, roof, heating system, floor tiles, etc. As we move into next year, Marc is analyzing several long-range capital improvement projects that the board must undertake in the near future, one of which is the replacement of all windows throughout the house.

In addition to serving as an officer of the board as our treasurer, a position he has held since June of 1997, Rich Boroway assumed the role of the chapter financial advisor last year. In this capacity, Rich works very closely with the undergrad treasurer to advise and guide the actives on their finances. Rich graciously filled this role on an interim basis to allow Drew Spitzer to focus on a new business venture (Drew is developing a civic center in Lake George that is scheduled to be completed in December 2003). Rich is no stranger to this advisory role, having spent approximately 15 years as the financial advisor until Drew assumed the responsibilities in 1999. This willingness to step in and continue to get more and more involved is even more impressive when you consider that Rich has been actively involved with the alumni board for over 20 years. He even managed to serve as the alumni board president for two years at one point. We are truly lucky to have such dedicated and committed alumni as Rich and Marc. They are excellent examples for the rest of us.

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## Brothers Focus On Academics, Rush (But Still Have A Good Time!)

I'm writing this article in the closing months of my term as Delta Chapter president. I have found this position to be very rewarding and challenging at the same time, and I thank everyone who has supported and assisted me during my tenure.

As we returned to RPI for this fall semester, one of our greatest priorities in the house has been seeking out new members for our brotherhood. Rush remains an interesting period of time for any senior exiting the house, especially the president. There is a careful balance of being actively involved to assist the new and emerging leaders of the house, while also allowing them to mold the house as they see fit for the years to come. Fortunately, the younger members of the house have really come together, and we have a very promising incoming class of freshmen.

The house is running quite well. I am pleased to announce that with the graduation of this year's seniors, there will no longer be any trace of our reorganization and those who experienced it. While this was a low point in our history, I take great pride in the perseverance of the current actives to put that event behind us and strive to return our house to its earlier stature. I know that those who follow in our footsteps will continue these efforts and further improve upon them. There are, however, new challenges for members of fraternity life here at RPI and in our chapter house.

RPI, Rensselaer County, and our national fraternity have set up new programs and increased their efforts to eliminate underage drinking. RPI has stepped up its risk management requirements of fraternities and sororities. Rensselaer County has created a task force aimed at enforcing laws to prosecute those found guilty of underage drinking, and establishments or fraternities that allow it. Lastly, Theta Chi National Fra-

ternity has adopted an alcohol-free policy for all of its chapter houses. But the National also approved and implemented a waiver program for eligible chapters. This waiver



*The current junior class at the house will carry forward the traditions of Delta Chapter.*

er policy allows chapters to apply for a waiver if they meet the strict requirements set forth by the National. These requirements include but are not limited to: zero risk management incidents; an approved risk management plan; prompt payment of all fees owed to the National; maintenance of the house GPA above the all-men's campus GPA; attendance at all National and regional meetings; 100 percent participation by the actives in sexual harassment training; risk management training; and required philanthropy events. It has only been through the persistent efforts of Delta Chapter's alumni board president, Greg Dietrich '96, and my predecessor, Pat Doyle '02, that we received the waiver. Of the 136 active chapters of Theta Chi, we are among 26 that were eligible to apply for the waiver, and one of only 12 to receive it. These waivers, however, are given to the chapters very tenuously, with the requirement that

they be reapplied for annually.

I can only commend the members of Delta Chapter for continuing to focus on their studies to keep their cumulative GPAs above the school average (3.105), which is also above the dean's list minimum. In addition, they have done an amazing job of enforcing our risk management policies in social situations, which has prevented any violations of any kind from occurring within the house. All this coupled with a new, stricter dean of Greeks, a Troy noise ordinance targeted at fraternities, and the previously mentioned underage drinking task force that has been arresting college students (Greek and independent alike) at an alarming rate, and it's surprising that the brothers manage to have as much fun as they do.

Despite all the challenges facing us here at Delta Chapter, we are still having loads of fun. From spontaneous slip and slides to volleyball on the lawn to the great parties, you would have no idea of all the restrictions trying to keep these guys in line. IFC sports are as much a focus as ever, and we should be back in the playoffs yet again for football, although we have yet to mark a win in soccer (perhaps there are just some sports we should give up on). The RPI football team is undefeated after having thumped Union, and as always there is a strong showing of brothers represented on both sides of the ball.

I don't know about you, but I'm looking forward to a hell of a last year here at RPI, and I encourage any of you reading this to swing by the house and say hello. You are always welcome, and the door is always open to our alumni—you are the reason we are still here.

As always,  
Brad Greenwood '04  
President, Delta Chapter

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## Alumni Board Pleased With Chapter's Progress

*(continued from page one)*

I'd like to encourage each and every one of you to participate through communication on key issues and through contributions. Please contact me directly using the e-mail address below if you are interested in learning more about the board and staying connected. The board members and advisors are working hard with the actives to establish a foundation for growth moving forward.

As always, there is little that can be done without capital. We really need the

help of all alumni. Paying your annual dues (a nominal amount) keeps you involved and provides the money to keep you connected through the *Delta Dial*. Whatever you can donate over and above the dues amount will help us to replenish the financial reserves that were depleted in recent years when the number of actives living in the house was too small to be self-sufficient. We have taken steps to make it easier to contribute dues; you can now make contributions online at <http://www.deltachapter-thetachi.org/dues.htm>.

[deltachapter-thetachi.org/dues.htm](http://www.deltachapter-thetachi.org/dues.htm).

Please continue to visit us on the web at <http://www.deltachapter-thetachi.org>. If your e-mail address is incorrect on the site, or not there at all, please take a moment to drop us a line with your updated contact details. We'd love to hear from you.

Fraternally,  
Greg Dietrich '96, President  
Delta Theta Chi Corporation  
[gc\\_dietrich@hotmail.com](mailto:gc_dietrich@hotmail.com)

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# Alumni Scholarship Program News

## 2003-'04 Scholarships Awarded to Damon Belloni, Joseph Cecot, and Brian Petrow

The scholarship committee for the Delta Chapter Theta Chi Fraternity Scholarship Fund was happy to announce at the annual meeting of the alumni corporation in June that scholarships were being awarded for the 2003-2004 school year to Damon Belloni from the class of 2005, Joseph Cecot from the class of 2004, and Brian Petrow from the class of 2004.

**Damon Belloni** came to Rensselaer from Denver, Colorado. He is a junior this year and is majoring in biomedical engineering, with a minor in economics. Damon played football at Rensselaer for two years and is currently in his third year on the lacrosse team. He is an excellent example of a student athlete, because while dealing with the time requirements of two sports plus a challenging major, he has maintained an impressive 3.8 GPA. Damon is also currently vice president of the chapter. His plans following graduation are to join the FBI, and he is hopeful of getting an internship with the FBI this coming summer. Damon comments: "I am extremely grateful for this scholarship. From the friendships I've made and the experiences I've had, Theta Chi has already given me a lot; and this scholarship is just another great example of other brothers lending a helping hand."

**Joseph Cecot** is from Massena, New York, up near the Canadian border and is in one of those popular new majors that was

first available at Rensselaer in 1996—electronic media arts and communication ("EMAC"). However, Joe tells us that even though his major is graphics and art, he has decided recently that his true love is computer programming, and he has a minor in computer science. His plan following graduation next year is either to find a job programming with a company in the video game industry or to continue his education in the computer science field at the graduate school level.

Joe didn't live in the chapter house his sophomore year, but he has been a very enthusiastic brother since then, participating on the standards board, the social committee, and the philanthropy committee. Upon hearing he had been selected for one of the alumni scholarships, he remarked: "The family that I have found here at 2100 Burdett is something I could not have imagined if I had not had the chance to experience it. To me this scholarship is icing on an already well-dressed cake. It is tough on my family with another brother in college and a second brother looking at colleges; and my family and I are extremely appreciative of this gesture from the alumni. It is a huge lift to receive this award, and I fully intend to start to repay it as soon as I am able."

**Brian Petrow** hails from Downingtown, Pennsylvania, and is majoring in management (with a concentration in MIS) and a  
*(continued on page six)*

## Continuing Support Is Always Needed And Appreciated

While the support received to date from our alumni has been impressive, it still pales in comparison to the ever-increasing financial needs of our undergraduate brothers. Based on the estimates of RPI's financial aid office, the full cost of an RPI education—tuition, books, room, and board—will exceed \$40,000 in the 2004-2005 school year. Add to this the fact that the income available for scholarships from RPI's endowment funds is rising at a rate slower than the increases in costs, and it is easy to see why most financial aid packages are not only tight in the freshman year, but continue to fall even further below most students' needs as costs increase over the next three years. The availability of our alumni scholarships to juniors and seniors in Theta Chi is often the difference in being able to return to Rensselaer or not. Therefore, the need to continue to increase this fund is very real.

For those of you who want to help out, please send your tax-deductible contribution to: Office of Development, Attn: Lynn Hopwood, Hedley Building, Fifth Floor, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, 110 Eighth St., Troy, NY 12180-3590. Please make the check out to RPI, but make 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 it is "for college scholarship"). If anyone has any questions, feel free to call Rich Bollam '66 at work at 800/724-6700.

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## Thanks To All Of Our Supporters

*As we do every year in our fall issue, we want to thank all of those alumni whose gifts to this valuable program have made it the success it has become. Through September 30, 2003, over \$156,000 has been contributed by 164 Delta Chapter alumni. In addition, we want to acknowledge the following alums whose total giving to date has reached one of our various leadership levels.*

**Dusty Rhodes Society**  
*(Lifetime contributions of \$25,000 and over)*

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Bill Fernandez '68	Wesley Kern '89
Richard Mowrey '68	Drew Spitzer '96
Peter Perucci '68	

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## Alumni Weekend Brings Alums And Undergraduates Together

Theta Chi's annual Alumni Weekend was held September 19-21, 2003. Alumni Corporation President Greg Dietrich, Adam Leblanc '04, and I all took part in putting the event together. While this grand event usually coincides with the RPI vs. Union football showdown, we all felt this year that it should be held the same weekend as Rensselaer's first annual Athletic Reunion Weekend.

The weekend went extremely well. We started it off with a small get-together on that Friday, including whichever alumni decided to come by and join the fun. It was a very relaxed evening of pizza, wings, music, and some college football on the tube. We actives got to know some of the older alumni as well as hang out with the more recent ones. I'm not sure how events went later that night, since I had to get to sleep early for my game against Coast Guard, but rumor has it that it got pretty lively.

After Friday's festivities there was a pre-game tailgate party at the North Lot before the football game. Of course we ended up putting a hurting on those Bears with a 44-7 thrashing. After the game, we held our Alumni Weekend formal. Everybody dressed up for the event. We began with a cocktail hour so we could converse with alumni before sitting

down to a great meal cooked by Ricky Jackson '04, a fellow active. The dinner went extremely well, and many alumni observed how cordial the undergraduate waiters were towards the guests and each other.

One of the speakers for the night was Lou Takacs, an alumnus from the class of 1957. He spoke about how life was on the RPI campus during his tenure at Theta Chi. At the time, the chapter house was located on Second Street, the campus was half the size it is now, and the proximity of the Russell Sage College women was pleasurable.

After the dinner many of the older alumni decided to head on home after a long day of football and partying, while the younger alumni stayed till the waking hours celebrating a great RPI win and reminiscing about old times. This event was a great step up from last year's, and the weather and timing of the event could not have been better. We had a strong showing with over 50 alumni and guests at the festivities. I definitely feel that we can use this weekend as a stepping-stone for next year's event and alumni events from here on in. Thanks to all the alumni who attended.

Fraternally yours,  
Ramses Jimenez '05

## Fall Rush Nets 14 Pledges So Far

Rush is always a busy and interesting time of year, and all the brothers and I were very excited to promote our house to the freshmen and get the year started off on the right foot. This year's rush was a success on which we are still building. As of early October we have 14 new pledges who have signed their bids and are eager and ready to be a part of Delta Chapter of Theta Chi.

We hosted several different rush events this year. For example, we had Monday Night Football events in which brothers and rushees alike relaxed and took a break from the RPI workload with some chicken wings and pizza. A second event we had consisted of buying 650 hot dogs from Gus' Hot Dogs, a popular local spot, and holding a contest to see who could eat the most. The eating contest was won by a senior brother, who finished off 31 hot dogs with the works. In addition, we had an extremely popular wrestling event, which was a huge hit with rushees and brothers alike. Also almost every night during rush we had several freshmen just hanging out and spending time with the brothers. I consider this in many ways more promising than scheduled events, because that is when they really get to know the brothers and see how well we get along and interact.

The most important event, however, is our traditional steak dinner. We invite the most promising rushees up to the house for a nice sit-down dinner, and everyone stands up and introduces himself to make sure everyone knows each other formally. Then several brothers stand up during dessert and talk about their first impression of the house, what made them join, and what it means to them. As an added bonus, we had two recent alumni speak, Kevin Solli '02 and Nate Doyle '02, who coach many of the freshmen on the football team. No doubt after hearing these two men speak, as well as the actives, about how much the house means to them, these freshmen had a much better understanding of what the brotherhood and the Delta Chapter of Theta Chi are all about.

We currently have many bid recipients who haven't made their decision yet, and we continue to do our best to convince them to join Theta Chi. All in all, we are a determined group of actives who want to see this house grow and prosper, and we're proud to welcome each new member to Theta Chi here at RPI.

David Campbell '05  
Rush Co-Chair

## Delta Chapter Dedicates Plaque For Alumnus Killed In World Trade Center Attack

On June 15, 2003, as part of their 40th Reunion Weekend at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, members of the Delta Chapter class of 1963 dedicated a plaque to one of their classmates, J. Nicholas Humber. Nick had the tragic bad luck to be a passenger on one of the planes that terrorists crashed into the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. (In addition to this memorial plaque, over 20 Delta Chapter alumni from the classes of 1960-1966 have contributed more than \$11,000 in Nick's memory to the Delta Chapter Theta Chi Fraternity Scholarship Fund.)

The dedication ceremony was held at the chapter house immediately following the annual meeting of Delta Chapter's alumni corporation and, in addition to some of Nick's classmates, was also attended by the alumni corporation's board members and advisors and several undergraduate brothers. The principal speaker was Bill Stitt '63, who had been a close friend and roommate of Nick during his undergraduate years, and had remained a very close friend throughout all the years that followed.

The photo at right, taken in the lobby of the Delta Chapter house, shows (from left) 1963 class members Ev Molony, Fred Boehm,

and Bill Stitt. Following the ceremony, the plaque was mounted on a wall in the chapter house dining room. The plaque reads as follows:

*This plaque is presented in memory of J. Nicholas Humber, class of 1963, who lost his life during the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. Nick was an active and enthusiastic brother during his undergraduate years and an active and supportive alumnus during the years thereafter. We all remember him fondly.*

*Dedicated on June 15, 2003 by Nick's Theta Chi classmates at RPI on the occasion of their 40th reunion.*



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*Delta Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity*

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*We wish to thank the following alumni for their generous support during the 2002-'03 giving year.*

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G. Scott Virkler '87  
Angelo J. Vissas '97  
Thomas B. Walsh '81  
Randal D. Weaver '79  
Roger F. Wernlund '49  
Michael J. Wollman '74  
Robert J. Wright '72



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# Alumni write from far and near

SCHUYLER J. STEWART '37 resides at 20 Jennifer Rd., Scotia, NY 12302.

"I moved her on March 21, just in time for the Masters," writes H. KENNARD STALL '49, whose new address is 121 Hammond Place Circle, North Augusta, SC 29841.

ROGER F. WERNLUND '49 reports a new address of 390 Franklyn Ave., Indialantic, FL 32903.

June and Allan Walch have retired to Porter, Maine, where they're living on a lake with almost no other houses nearby. Their fleet includes a sailboat, a canoe, a rowboat, a couple of kayaks, and a water ski boat. Send greetings to the Walches at 67 Lower Lakedale Rd., Porter, ME 04068, or at awalch@prodigy.net.

When he wrote in May, NORMAN S. EISS JR. '53 was looking forward to his 50th reunion at RPI. To find out how it went, write to him at neiss@vt.edu or at 1409 Hillcrest Dr., Blacksburg, VA 24060. Norm is spending his retirement gardening, playing tennis, hiking, biking, designing and making furniture, and visiting his seven grandchildren in Colorado and Georgia. He also was planning trips to France and Italy.

Please note this new address for THOMAS J. BOLAM '55: 14855 Memorial Dr., #1012, Houston, TX 77079; torobo@aol.com.

E-mail reaches ROBERT J. LYTLE '57 at cnmrry@aol.com and "snail mail" at 614 Ocean Shore Blvd., Ormond Beach, FL 32176.

"I retired as VP of Northrop Grumman Corporation after 41 years," writes MICHAEL V. CIMINERA '59 (48 Santa Cruz, Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274; mciminera@cox.net). "I consult for Northrop Grumman as well as other aerospace companies. I am chairman of the Industrial Advisory Board to the School of Engineering at RPI. I visit the campus frequently and enjoy RPI alumni meetings in California. I see JOEL WALKER '60 quite a bit and keep in touch with BYRON BUELL '59, JERRY BURCHETT '59, and JOHN McNEIL '57. I also saw MATT HEALY '59 and CHUCK URMSON '59 at last reunion."

RICHARD G. HECK '64 can be reached at P.O. Box 220, Clemmons, NC 27012, or at dickheck@cs.com.

PATRICK HASSETT '77 is the assistant director for development, design, and transportation for the city of Pittsburgh. Write to him at pat.hassett@city.pittsburgh.pa.us or at 926 Greenfield Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15217.

KARL J. SCHOENLEBER '78 invites old friends to drop in for a visit at 27 Shoreline Dr., Columbia, SC 29229. "The fishing is always good in Lake Carolina!" E-mail reaches Karl at kjschoenleber@yahoo.com.

NELSON J. BROWN '81 works for Fisher Scientific's chemical division as VP and general manager of global operations. He lives at 7 Tartan Dr., Basking Ridge, NJ 07920, and can be reached by e-mail at nelsonjbrown@hotmail.com.

ROBERT "Rip" COLLINS '85 writes, "We had our second annual unofficial father-son RPI football/Theta Chi football weekend last fall. BARRY ESSIG '85 and Harrison and DOUG JABLONSKI '85 and Brendan have participated with Robert and me. We had a great time each year and are ready to expand the participation." Interested? Contact Rip at ripmjcollins@yahoo.com or at 539 Hilaire Rd., Saint Davids, PA 19087.

DAVID T. NIES '88 and his wife, Tammy, live on the shores of Chesapeake Bay at 410 Congressional Dr., Stevensville, MD 21666. They recently welcomed a son, Bodie David Nies. Get in touch with Dave at dnies@northropgrumman.com.

MATTHEW J. DOUCET '89 works for Crum & Forster Insurance in Chicago and lives at 4212 N. Ashland Ave., Unit 2S, Chicago, IL 60613. Send e-mail to Matt at mducee13@aol.com.

MATTHEW DOUGLAS '89 writes that he was very glad to get the last issue of Delta Dial and read about our chapter's continued growth and improvement. In April, Matt's wife, Marcia, gave birth to their second child, Lauren Elizabeth Douglas, who joins big brother Matthew. The Douglas family resides at 132 Kent Place Blvd., Summit, NJ 07901, and can be reached by e-mail at 132kentplace@comcast.net.

RICK BARBERA '99 and his fiancé, Teri Nelson, have just bought a house together at 206 E. Brunswick St., Sterling, VA 20164. Rick's e-mail address is wiz@mojo machine.net.

## Scholarship News

*(continued from page three)*

minor in IT. Brian was the chapter house manager last year and worked closely with Marc Dickie '88, the alumni maintenance advisor, in dealing with a number of long-standing physical plant and maintenance issues at 2100 Burdett. He has also been very active in IFC sports and has served on the chapter's standards board. After being notified of the award, Brian noted: "One of

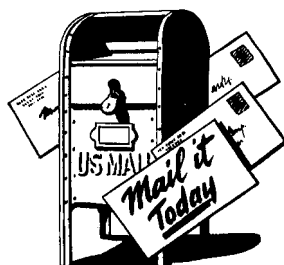
my big disappointments since attending RPI is that the year I moved into the house the financial aid office reduced my financial aid package. They said that under the federal guidelines my family's 'unmet need' had gone down, but from my perspective it seems as though it has gone up every year. The alumni scholarship has taken some of the financial pressure off both me and my family, and we are all very thankful."

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*Let us know what you're doing—  
where you've traveled, whom you've seen,  
how your family is prospering.*

*Send us your news today!*



## DECEASED

JAMES G. ARMSTEAD '31  
March 12, 2003

WILLIAM A. KELLY '49  
August 2002

CLIFFORD J. MOSBACHER JR. '49  
May 20, 2003

EDGAR H. SCHULTZ '44  
August 20, 2002