



PARTHENON

ALPHA ZETA DELTA ALUMNIN NEWSLETTER

Remarks From The #1

For those of you who haven't visited the Lodge in a while, here's what you've been missing.

We're back. Although the numbers aren't quite there yet, I'm proud to say that this fraternity is as strong as it's ever been. Now that we've had a year to settle into the Lodge at 311 E. Armory, we're more motivated than we've ever been, we're more focused than we've ever been, and we're having more fun than we've ever had.

I'm especially proud of our pledges this semester. There are six of them, and they make up the greatest pledge class that you could ever dream of. I know some of you are asking yourselves right now, "Why are there only six?" It's true that we fell short of our goal this semester, and nobody was more disappointed than I was. But these guys are truly the kind of guys that we want in our fraternity. They're motivated, they work hard, and they respect the actives more than any pledge class I've ever seen (that's something any alumnus should be proud of). If you get the chance, I would encourage all of you to make the trip down sometime to meet these guys.

Rush has already begun for the spring semester. It gives me great comfort to see that the actives are not going to sit on their butts and wait until January 19th to start rushing this year, like we've done in the past. After a motivating rush workshop given by rush extraordinaire Kevin O'Neill, the actives and pledges

are determined to fill up the Lodge for next year. That is what we are working for.

And I'm confident that we will fill up this Lodge next year, especially after the showing that we had at our first annual Thanksgiving Dinner, held on November 19th. Glen Scott, Bernie Grosso, and I cooked up a Thanksgiving dinner that each and every one of your mothers would have been proud of. We fed about forty people, including rushees, girlfriends, every active, and even our Faculty Advisor, Dr. Larry Mann. It was a very classy showing, and a tradition that I hope continues to grow through the years.

Academically, the Alpha is on solid ground. Last semester, our GPA was 2.963/4.00, which is above both the all-men's average of 2.954 and the all-fraternity average of 2.918. This semester, I see a renewed commitment to academics in those lodgers who've had trouble with their grades in the past, and I look forward to seeing a GPA above 3.0 next semester.

Now I want to take this opportunity to thank a few people. First of all, Todd Fouts, for facilitating our Alpha Management Retreat on November 13th and 14th. Even though the meeting room probably had to be fumigated after we left, I feel that we did a tremendous job of getting everyone on the same page, and motivated to make our Alpha everything that it could, and should be.

I also want to thank the Educa-

tional Foundation for providing us with another grant this year. With this grant, we were able to continue the Buell Scholarship Program this year, which is an extremely valuable tool for rush, as well as a tremendous way to honor the memory of the only #7 from Zeta Delta. Also, we are in the process of getting high-speed Internet access installed in the Lodge with this money. The importance of this is tremendous. Now, more than ever, our classes are relying on the World Wide Web to post lecture notes, assignments, and even quizzes. Without high-speed access, the Lodge is a very unattractive place to live for rushees, and a very frustrating place to live for any Lodger who's ever had trouble connecting to the Internet via modem.

Finally, I want to thank each and every alumnus who has made the trip to Champaign and supported us throughout the past year or so. In particular, I want to thank everyone who made it down for the Alumni Reunion, and showed us the right way to play Whales' Tails (you guys blew my mind!). And to those of you who haven't seen the new Lodge yet, or been to Champaign in a while, you guys are welcome and encouraged to stop by whenever your schedule allows. We'd love to see you here.

YITB,
Matt Hess, '00

Y2K?

Y2K compliant? It is a topic with which I am sure most of you are familiar. Y2K is something you probably hear or read about daily. For the uninitiated, it stands for Year 2000 Compliant. It has to do with the fact that most computer programs read (or store) a year as two digits. The year 1998 is stored as 98, and so on. Apparently, computer software developers did not have the foresight to realize that 1900 and 2000 would both be stored as 00. This small oversight is costing the US Government alone something like a billion dollars. Even the small company I work at will spend over \$10,000 on the Y2K issue. You are probably wondering why this is of importance to our fraternity. Well, it will certainly affect issues relating to computers. In fact, the national organization of Chi Psi has been studying the issue and how it will effect us. Coincidentally, our own alumni board president, Todd Fouts, heads this committee.

But there is a bigger question. Are fraternities and, more specifically, Chi Psi Fraternity Y2K compliant? Are we built for the year 2000 and beyond? Do we have the foresight to prepare our organization for the next century? These certainly are grave questions to ask but we must look forward. We need to be proactive in designing our fraternity as an organization that can draw the quality and quantity of college men desired not only to survive but also to thrive. I am certainly not suggesting that nothing has been done. We were the first fraternity on the Internet. We are providing more scholarships for both academic excellence and financial need than ever. But can we do more? Certainly. I anticipate

that the pendulum can now swing in our direction if we just give it a little push. We have weathered the storm over the last decade of both low numbers and losing our home at 912 South Second Street. The undergraduate brotherhood is on the rise and needs the support of its strong alumni base. But we need help from all of you. This help can come in many forms. Your time and ideas are valuable. If you are aware of any men who attend or will be attending Illinois, give the undergraduates these leads.

I hope this stimulates ideas from both old and young. I look forward to any of your ideas to increase our attractiveness to college men. Let's become more Y2K compliant and enjoy a thriving fraternity into the next century.

Wayne Way '90

1999 Undergraduate Spring Schedule

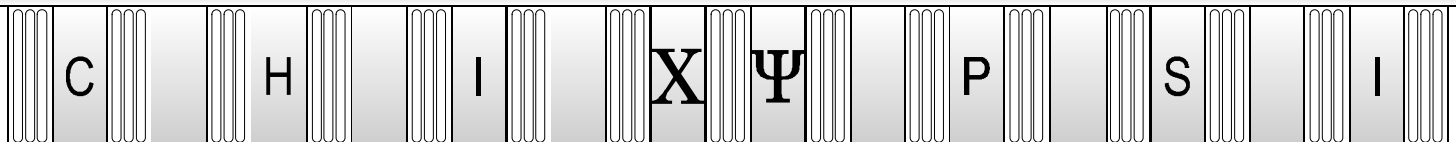
Jan 19	Classes Begin
Jan 21	Winter BBQ
Jan 27	Open House
Jan 31	Super Bowl Party
Feb 2	Broomball
Feb 4	Afterhours
Feb 6	Indoor Wall Climbing
Feb 11	Casino Night
Feb 13	Valentines Day Formal
Feb 17	Open House
Feb 21	Pledge Class Closes/ Formal Pledging
Mar 13-21	Spring Break
Mar 20	Spring Alumni Reunion
Mar 27	Afterhours
Apr 10	Afterhours
Apr 17	Meathouse's (Matt Hess) 21st Birthday Party at the White Horse
Apr 20/May 1	Initiation
May 7-14	Final Exams

Fall of 1998 Officers

#1	Matt Hess
#2	Glen Scott
#3	Tim Braun
#4	Nick Stevens
#5	Jason Balcauski
Rush Chair	Eric Prester
Social Chair	Brian Keleher
Pledge Educator	Glen Scott
Lodge Manager	Rick Golemba
Philanthropy	Mike Thomas
Scholarship	Eric Prester
Historian	Conan Locke
Athletic Chair	Blake Hafenrichter
Rush Committee	Blake Hafenrichter, Mike Thomas, and Conan Locke
Social Committee	Jon St. Peter and Chad Stevens

1999 Fighting Illini Football Schedule

Sept. 4	Arkansas State
Sept. 11	San Diego State
Sept. 18	at Louisville
Sept. 25	Michigan State
Oct. 2	at Indiana
Oct. 16	Minnesota - Homecoming
Oct. 23	at Michigan
Oct. 30	Penn State
Nov. 6	at Iowa
Nov. 13	at Ohio State
Nov. 20	Northwestern



A Letter From The President

Gentlemen,

Alpha Zeta Delta has been in a period of transition for several years now. The declining membership of the late 80's and early 90's led to the sale of the old Lodge several years ago. Since then, the Alpha has been transient, moving from one Lodge to another until we landed once again in a full-sized fraternity house in Champaign last year, settling in the former Alpha Chi Rho house on Armory Street.

This move marked a significant milestone in our journey back to prominence among fraternities at Illinois. However, we still have a long way to go. Membership peaked briefly this spring prior to graduation, but occupancy at the Lodge will remain at minimal levels again for the upcoming year. This is not entirely surprising given that we only recently moved from a much smaller facility into a building with a capacity approaching that of the old Lodge on 2nd Street.

Alpha Zeta Delta now faces a new challenge. We have an opportunity to make significant strides in membership and campus presence. It is not an opportunity that will not be easy to seize, but success rarely comes without equal or greater risk of failure. The past few years have seen average membership levels change very little, but over that time there has been significant turnover in membership. The Alpha boasts a healthy mix of experienced upperclassmen and enthusiastic new members.

Unlike last year, we are already settled in the current Lodge, so there is no move to distract us from the business of rush and sap our energy prematurely. A fledgling summer rush program leads into an aggressive rush plan that, if executed well, poses enormous potential for success. Our location in the midst of fraternity row in Champaign will make it easier for us to make and keep contact with prospective members, and our presence in a stately fraternity house gives us better credibility as an equal to larger fraternities with whom we compete for members.

There are several ways that alumni can help the actives to capitalize on the opportunity which we face leading into the upcoming school year. First, a phone call (217-344-7407), e-mail (chipsi@uiuc.edu), or letter (311 E. Armory, Champaign, IL 61820) to the actives with a few words of solidarity and encouragement will go a long way towards keeping enthusiasm levels high. Second, recommendations of rush prospects from alumni provide both assistance and encouragement to the Brothers. Third, attendance at rush events and alumni events also provides both assistance and encourage-

ment.

It is a well-documented fact that the strongest Alphas are those which have the strongest alumni support. The Alumni Corporation provides direct support to the Alpha, but the greatest boost that an Alpha can get is direct one-on-one support from alumni in ways similar to those which I mentioned above. The presence of alumni at any event or even a simple letter or phone call generates enormous enthusiasm by showing the actives and pledges that they are not in this alone. People will always exceed their own expectations when they truly feel a part of something bigger than themselves.

The first alumni event of the new school year is the annual Chi Psi Reunion on September 26 at the Lodge in Champaign. The Illini will play Iowa in the home Big Ten opener, and there will be an opportunity to spend time with the actives and other alumni at the Lodge both before and after the game. We have purchased a small block of tickets to the game. If you want tickets, please provide a check for the appropriate number of tickets when you return your annual dues.

Speaking of dues, it is time once again for alumni dues. As always, I promise to pass the hat only once each year, and I will keep my solicitation short. The Alumni Corporation needs your support to continue to operate in support of the Alpha each year. Dues are only \$35 (\$20 for alumni from 1994-98). Additional donations are always welcome. Also, if you wish to make a tax-deductible contribution to the Alpha Zeta Delta of Chi Psi Educational Foundation, please enclose a separate check for whatever amount you feel is appropriate. There, that

wasn't so hard, was it?

To close, let me once again urge you to call, e-mail, or write the Lodge with your support and encouragement. If you can, I also encourage you to make an effort to visit the Lodge during an event or any other time to meet the actives, see their home, and renew your bonds.

Yours in the Bonds,

Todd Fouts
President,
The Corporation of Alpha Zeta Delta of Chi Psi



Doin' a Little Duty

Last December, I took part in the initiation of six new members to our brotherhood. It was my first fraternity activity in over two years, and it came largely due to the fact that Brother Schallmo, my roommate, was going. At some point in the six years since my initiation, I allowed my devotion to lapse, and my sense of connectedness to atrophy. I didn't choose it to happen; rather, it slid into my life slowly and quietly.

How did it happen? Why did it happen? Well, how does anything like that happen? One moment I felt like I was part of something greater, and the next, I was reflecting back on my college time as a period of "youthful indiscretions." (Thank you, Henry Hyde) It was a minute shifting of priorities, from then to now. I figured that, once I had few extra bucks together, I'd send it along to the Alumni Corporation, and, y'know, do my part. But there never was a few extra bucks, y'know?

Then I went to initiation, in a Lodge I didn't know, hosted by people I didn't know, but that didn't matter. Champaign had changed quite a bit, yes, but the wind still poured down from the South Farms, and Perkins still sold their bread bowl salad. There was no formal epiphany, no lightning strike to re-energize my lagging loyalty. In one moment, I wished I was someplace else, and in the next, no other place would suffice. I was glad I came.

There's a name for this: duty. Specifically Easter Duty. It's a doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church that I never quite understood until that moment. Every good Catholic is supposed to go to Mass every Sunday, where the sacrament of the Eucharist is performed. This is celebrated as a community. However, there are some

theoretical flaws in the practice. For one, the sacrament only has to be done once, really. At First Communion, the wellspring of eternal life opens up within the recipient, and nothing, not even death can stem it. But it begs the question: if the flow can't be stopped, then why go back to Mass, week after week?

As it turns out, that was a good question, and one the Church tried to answer as best it could. It came up with Easter Duty, a belief that to ensure the "eternal wellspring," the faithful needed to go to Mass once a year, on Easter.

To my adolescent mind, teetering on adulthood, it seemed like a lot of handwaving to ensure mandatory attendance. But on that day, sharing the experience with six gentlemen, now brothers, it all became clear. Duty, that yearly obligation, fixes in the mind of the participant a sense of belonging. It's a jolt of community, straight to the heart, to remind us of the greater good that can be found by being one voice, joined in chorus.

So what am I saying? Simple. If you're reading this newsletter, and wondering why you're reading this, if you think back on your experiences in college, and can't remember what it felt like, if your memories of brotherhood feel more like a phantom limb than the keystone of all that has happened since, then do something good for your soul. Make a trip down to where it started, and attend the initiation of a fellow brother. Above all, do your Duty.

Tim Toner, '92

On the weekend of December 4, 1998, Alpha Zeta Delta initiated six men into our Brotherhood. Mike Thomas, Chad Stevens, Adam Petri, Jon St. Peter, Blake Hafenrichter, and Connan Locke have entered into the bonds of Chi Psi. This was a result of a concentrated rush effort by our undergraduate brothers in the fall semester. The Alpha plans to redouble it's efforts in the spring.

The initiation weekend was a success due to good organization by the undergraduates coupled with the participation of seven alumni. Following the initiation a welcome banquet was held at the Olive Garden to celebrate with the New Initiates. The afternoon was concluded with a brief Alumni Corporation meeting. That evening the Lodge hosted a small party in honor of our new brothers.

Please make note of the spring initiation. It is a great opportunity for our alumni to continue to preserve our traditions and celebrate our heritage while welcoming new brothers to our number.

Craig Schallmo, '92

Questions? Comments? Suggestions?
Articles?

Send them to Craig Schallmo
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The new Lodge can be found at
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http://www.uiuc.edu/ro/chi_psi/