

Alpha Rho Colony of Alpha Sigma Phi Fraternity is rich in history and tradition. Its members strive to continue the traditions of brotherhood, scholarship, and service. In December of 1980 a group formed at WJTB, the NJIT radio station, and decided that their friendship could foster a fraternity. The leader of the group and future president Neale Bedrock called the National Headquarters of the fraternity and asked what it would require to become a new chapter of Alpha Sigma Phi. After much organizing, electing of officers, and general legwork, the group was initiated as pledges on March 20th, 1981. Following the ceremony the new brothers went on their first "road trip", over to Beta Theta Chapter (Rutgers) for an impromptu party. The spirit of brotherhood followed to the next day at the Colonization luncheon, held at El Pescador restaurant in Roselle Park. The luncheon was well attended by representatives from National Headquarters such as Evan Varner, grand senior secretary, Richard Gibbs, Grand Senior President who inducted the pledges, making Alpha Rho the first to have this honor. Also attending were brothers from Wagner, Stevens Tech, and Rutgers. The next goal for the group of pledges was to become brothers, to get a house, and to become recognized as a Chapter of Alpha Sigma Phi.

What followed was weeks of pledge education and visits from their expansion consultant Rob Sheehan, Kevin Garvey, Larry Phillippi, and Richard Dexter. The sense of brotherhood and involvement stressed by these Alpha Sigs encouraged the colony even more. The province conclave, held in the first week of April, was attended best by Alpha Rho, which sent nine eager men. These men were eager to learn all there is to know

about fraternity life and Lehigh was the ideal place to find out. The representatives came back with many new ideas for making Alpha Phi even better.

In April, Alpha Phi Colony found a house at 273 High St., about two blocks from the school. At the time the semester ended a work schedule for the house was made up for the summer. The house needed a lot of work, and certain goals had to be set. On the second weekend in June, the colony had a brotherhood weekend at Joe Plescia's house in the country. A lot was accomplished during the weekend, such as financial policies and fees decisions, social plans, service project ideas, and most importantly at the time, house work plans. A phone list was set up so that brothers could keep in touch with one another during the summer months. Other events that were well attended were concerts and shows, all serving to bring the group together. Each weekend during the summer was a work day for the house. The members even found time to help an elderly citizen move in to a house down the street. When it came time for school to begin, the house was completely inhabitable. The colony was well prepared for the upcoming rush season. The first party, a New Year's eve party, was a huge success. During this time the colony also became involved in Inter Fraternity Football. The team surprised a lot of people by beating a lot of formidable teams, despite being the newest team in the league. Another successful party was a Fourth of July party, held in the middle of September. The house was now getting a reputation for throwing terrific parties and for being friendly and courteous to the people who attended them. The final party, a Christmas party, was the most successful of all. Alpha Phi had shown people that it means business. With definite plans to charter in January, it seems that it does.