



The Seven Points

ΧΑΥΣΑ ΛΑΤΕΤ ΨΙΣ ΕΣΤ ΝΟΤΙΣΣΙΜΑ

Summer '99

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1999-2000

Board Of Directors

Term (1997-2000)

Rob Owens '93

Bryan Chua '91

Greg LaSala '91

Term (1998-2001)

Kevin Ruta '90

Joe Fass '93

Dave Barker '93

Term (1999-2002)

Chris Vakulchik '91

Geo Morales '92

Dan Manning '93

Why Join the Alumni Association?

The Alumni Association offers so many things that there's something in it for everyone. Would you like to know what's going on with your Alpha Rho chapter? Would you like to keep up with news on what's up with your fellow brothers? Do you like picnics? Sports? Camping? Skiing? How about BBQ's and the Jersey shore? Do you want to hang out with your brothers, but don't want to invite them over because you know they'll make a mess?! There's all that and more available in the Alpha Rho Alumni Association.

The Alumni Association keeps you connected in so many ways. First there's the quarterly newsletter. For the non-members out there, you still get a taste of this every Fall. Members get the newsletter every quarter and in color. Past newsletter editor Rob Romaine did a fantastic job for us, and now Bruce DiBisceglie will be at the helm of our Newsletter beginning in August. Then there is our Alumni website. This was started with the help of Big Jim Comerford and Rob Romaine.

(Please see "Join" on page 2)

Picnic, Sept. 11th!

The Annual Opening Day Picnic is almost here. It will be held on Saturday, Sept. 11th, and as usual it will be paired with Sig Series #1 - Softball. The place this year is Grover Cleveland Park on Runnymede Road in West Caldwell, NJ. Many of you remember having it there a few years back. It's got a nice ballfield, and the picnic area will be all ours. The festivities will officially begin at noon, but everyone's encouraged to come earlier if they want to brush up on their softball skills a little before the game. Last year's picnic had a great turnout...hope to see everyone there this year!

The Meeting Of The Members

The Alpha Rho Chapter of Alpha Sigma Phi held its annual Meeting Of The Members at the familiar site on St. Louis Ave., at the VFW hall in Point Pleasant, New Jersey on the first Saturday of June.

Alpha Rho has been having meetings the first Saturday in June since the re-chartering days of 1981.

(Please see "Meeting" on page 3)

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Join...

Now the website is maintained by Marty Lyons who did a great job redesigning it and does a great job keeping it updated. Also, to get the up to date status of any Alumni Association events, there's the Hotline. This can be reached at (973) 623-7777. If that's not enough, there's also the Alumni e-mail distribution list, which can get you news even more quickly. Directions on how to get connected to the distribution are on the website. (www.alphasig.org)

If making a contribution to the undergraduate chapter is something you're interested in, the Alumni Association makes that easy as well. Pass on your experience to the undergraduate chapter at a rush workshop, or at officer and committee chairman training events. If you're good working with your hands, the Association arranges workdays to assist the Undergraduates in fixing up the Chapter house.

Finally, there's the stuff that's just flat out fun. The Sig Series runs throughout the year with the Alumni competing against the undergrads in a series of 7 events, which normally include softball, football, basketball, hockey, bowling, and beach volleyball. After the games end, there's always food waiting as well. Softball and beach volleyball always are followed or preceded by BBQ's. The other events usually are followed with pizza and sometimes baked ziti.

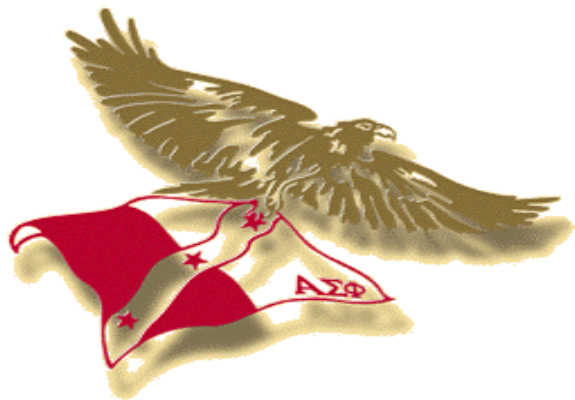
There's the Welcome Back BBQ picnic in September with Sig Series #1 Softball and the Annual Meeting of the Members down in Pt. Pleasant. The Convention and Meeting of the Members run for a whole weekend in June. This past year the first annual Ski Trip to Mountain Creek in Vernon, NJ was held. Everyone skied or snowboarded for half price all day. The first annual camping trip was this past July up in NY's Berkshire Mountains.

We also want to encourage everyone to feel free to bring their families to the Alumni Association events. Wives, kids, and girlfriends always have a great time at the Conventions down in Point Pleasant and at the Welcome Back picnics. It shouldn't have to be limited to those events. The kids have a good time no matter what the event. To prove that you would just have to have seen 2 minutes of the Duck-Duck-Goose game at last year's picnic.

If all of this sounds great, but you don't think you have the time to participate, remember that the Alumni Association runs solely on money collected from membership dues. Being nice guys doesn't earn us a discount on the hotline from Bell Atlantic. Please feel free to join the association even if your time constraints prevent you from participating in many events. You will have the satisfaction of knowing that your dues are making it possible to do great things, which in turn you'll be able to read about in your quarterly newsletter.

We hope this summary of what the Alumni Association has to offer is enough to encourage you to join. If not, we would appreciate it if you could get back to us and let us know what you think the Association is missing.

Feel free to e-mail puckhead519@yahoo.com or call (201) 507-4281. Thanks.



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Meeting...

The first meeting was held near High Point, NJ and lasted an entire weekend. Over the years, the “June Meeting”, as it came to be known, was a one afternoon event held at the Chapter house in Newark. In the mid-90s, Alpha Rho’s Board Of Directors went back to their roots and made the “June Meeting” a three day event once again. These “Conventions” were held in Point Pleasant for many reasons. Point Pleasant features activities that appeal to all types of members. There is an active nightlife, family entertainment, inexpensive accommodations, everything is in walking distance, and above all, it is an easy commute for our undergraduate brothers who merely have to hop a train that takes them three blocks from the VFW hall.

The Conventions usually start with a casual Friday night out where most of the brothers and families gather and take a stroll along the boardwalk. Saturday morning is when the Chapter gets down to business at what is known as The Meeting Of The Members. The meeting always runs from 10:30am to 1pm (with breaks). Here the Chapter reports on its successes, its shortcomings and sets goals for the future. It is also an excellent forum for all brothers to exchange ideas and for the Corporation to conduct business such as approving the annual budget, voting for new leaders and ratifying any pending amendments to the Constitution. After the Meeting Of The Members, the brothers and their significant others, adjourn to a plentiful barbecue coordinated by the Annual Convention Committee and the VFW staff. Around mid afternoon, everyone hits the beach for sun, fun and a little volleyball (usually Sig Series - Game Seven). As Saturday evening rolls around, the group dines at one of Point Pleasant’s fine restaurants. The Convention Weekend concludes with a Sunday breakfast and Miniature Golf Tournament for guys, gals and kids.

Election Results...

Board Of Directors (3 year term)

Vakulchik	93%
Morales	93%
Manning	55%
De Robertis	40%
Arbesfeld	8%
Almazon	5%
Martorano	3%

President

Ruta	85%
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Vice President

Barker	98%
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Budget

Yes	82%
Abstain	13%
No	5%

Meeting...

Since we moved the Convention permanently to Point Pleasant, there have been successful and not-so-successful meetings. It’s all a product of those in attendance. The 1998 Meeting Of The Members was one of the most successful Corporate meetings in the history of the chapter. It was efficient, effective and many goals were set. That meeting was possibly one of the better exchanges of ideas and ideals between the older alumni and the younger students to date.

(Please see “Meeting” on page 4)

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Meeting...

Unfortunately, the 1999 Meeting Of The Members was not as successful as the Board Of Directors had hoped it would be.

The meeting started over an half hour late as those in attendance waited for a quorum that never materialized. As per our Constitution, quorum is established by having 51% the total number of undergraduates plus the total number of Alumni Association members represented either by attendance or by proxy. For the 1999 Meeting Of The Members, the number needed for quorum was thirty-eight brothers. There were only thirty-four represented, twenty-four alumni, four undergraduates and six proxies. Therefore, no votes became official until additional proxies were received after a second notice to the brotherhood was made and tabulated in July.

So with the voting aside, other discussions carried on. Reports were given, but very few of those reporting actually discussed how they stacked up against the goals that they set for themselves a year earlier. In actuality, only about 20% of the goals set for the 1998-99 Board Of Directors were achieved. A large part of the discussions centered around trying to achieve our goal of purchasing the Chapter House at 267 King Blvd when the current lease expires on September 1, 2001. Chris Lambert, one of the architects of the house purchase movement that began in 1994 reported that we are exactly on course and that if the 1999-2000 Board Of Directors does their job, we should be able to buy the house and achieve our long-term goals of self-sufficiency. However, Lambert, along with Marty Lyons, Bruce DiBisceglie and others warned the current BOD that if this issue is not addressed, or if it is handled in the manner that issues were over the last year, there will be no way possible to buy the house. If the current BOD fails to act this year, we will be faced with another three year lease from the current owners

and thus lose the ability to offer lower rents to our student-brothers. Other discussions centered on improving the communications and relations between brothers that had deteriorated over the last several months. There was a sentiment voiced that the 1998-99 Board Of Directors spent too much time micro-managing the students.

Unfortunately, the discussions were cut short as the meeting began to go well into overtime. There was no agenda presented so it was easy to get sidetracked by lengthy conversations. The brotherhood moved to adjourn and retire to the barbecue that had been waiting outside. Although there were many good ideas discussed and some goals derived, many felt that this is a pivotal time in our chapter's history and that success will depend on the involvement of by all brothers.

For the first time ever, there were less than five students represented at the Meeting Of The Members. It has to be clear that we have to participate in the sharing of ideas to regain our stature as one of the most successful chapters in Alpha Sigma Phi. Also with Glenn Trimboli and Bruce DiBisceglie opting not to accept a fifth consecutive three-year term to the Board Of Directors, this marks the first time in our history that there is not one single alumnus on the Board from the 273 High Street / King Blvd era.

So if you are a student from the new 267 King Blvd Era or an alumnus from the initial 273 King Blvd Era, make your presence known in this organization. Try to come to events. If you can't come to many, pick one and go to it every year. If that's not possible, please, at least send your proxy votes in and offer your opinions on the Alpha Rho website's message board at <http://www.alphasig.org/wwwboard/index.html> . If you want to see something, let the members know. If you're not happy with something, let them know that too. We became great by speaking our minds. We'll get back to that greatness by not letting others speak for us.

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Shaun "Stu" Cronen receives Vernon O. Drake Award

The Board of Directors is proud to announce that the annual Vernon O. Drake Scholarship for 1999 has been awarded to Shaun Cronen, '97. A Computer Engineering major, Stu has completed his junior year at NJIT with a 3.55 cumulative GPA and made the Dean's List every semester. He is a member of the Albert Dorman Honors College, Tau Beta Pi National Engineering Honor Society and is involved with the NJIT Nucleus Yearbook. Last summer Shaun interned with Casio and he is working for NJ Transit this summer. Shaun pledged the Alpha Rho chapter in the fall of 1997, with the AK pledge class, and has since served as Corresponding Secretary, Service and IFSC Chairman, and Vice President.

The Alpha Rho Alumni Scholarship was officially renamed after Vernon O. Drake at the 1996 annual Meeting of the Members. Brother Drake pledged Phi Delta Zeta, a local fraternity, at Newark College of Engineering in the fall of 1925. Phi Delta Zeta became the Alpha Chapter of AKPi, which as you all know later merged with Alpha Sigma Phi. Through years of correspondence Brother Drake imparted much of the early history of AKPi to Marty Lyons, '82. Brother Drake entered the Omega chapter in March of 1994. To honor both his contributions to our knowledge of the history of our chapter and his generous donations to the Alpha Rho chapter and the Alpha Sigma Phi National headquarters the award was renamed for him. The \$200 award is presented annually to an undergraduate applicant chosen by the BOD who demonstrates leadership and dedication in the fraternity and participation in other extra-curricular activities, in addition to academic achievement. Funding for the award comes directly from the dues paid by alumni association members.

Shaun is a true example of our commitment "to foster education" and "maintain high scholarship". He is a valuable asset to the fraternity and truly deserving of this honor. The Board offers its congratulations on behalf of the entire fraternity and would like to encourage more undergraduates to apply for the award in future years. (For more information about the award or Vernon O. Drake please visit our web site at www.alphasig.org.)

V.P. Report ~ *Dave Barker*

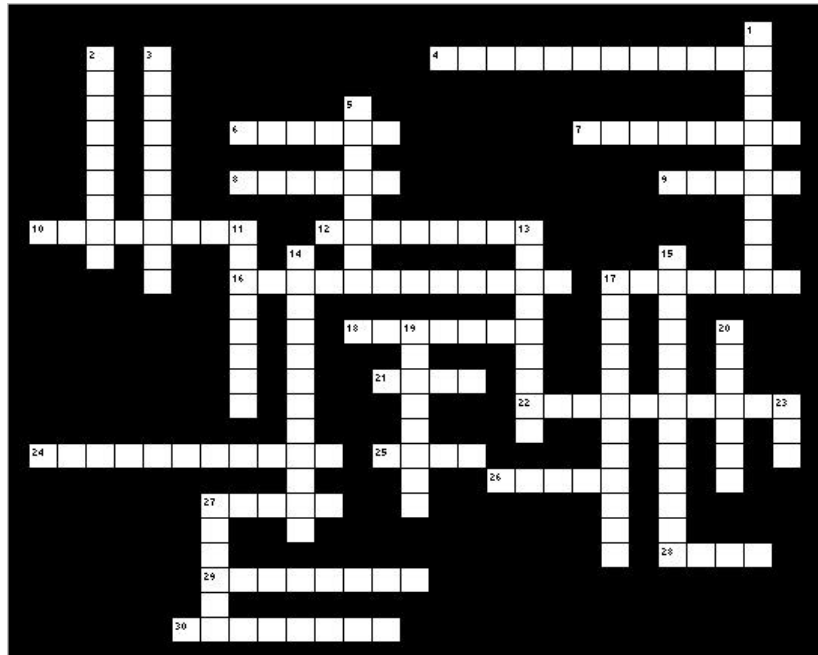
Here are my goals for the upcoming year condensed for everyone's enjoyment. (1) Restrict involvement in day-to-day matters of the Undergraduate chapter. Unless it's necessary or requested, we'll stay out. In most cases, they don't want our presence. Limiting interaction as a whole and to only 2 or 3 BOD members will allow the remainder of the BOD to better serve our Alumni members. (2) Push for new and more varied events. As the Alumni Chairman I tried to do this. This led to the Ski trip and the camping trip, but there are so many other activities of which I'm not familiar enough to run. This is where I hope to encourage others to jump in and run. I'm more than happy to help spread the word about it. Bob Zotti is interested in getting the Alumni Association involved in an annual 10K race through Branchbrook park in Newark. Rob Owens has also come to me with the idea of an off-roading trip in the Pine Barrens of NJ. I hope the ideas and events keep coming. (3) Assist in the acquisition of legal council, settling the issues about our tax status, and working towards making the purchase of the house in Newark a reality. To an extent they're all related. These are obviously not one-man jobs; the former being one that's not planned to be completed this year, or a job that the BOD can do on it's own. We hope to be able to tap the resources of all our members to accomplish this goal.

Across

4. we are all brothers in the ____
6. ____ College: co-founder at AKII
7. one of the official colors
8. past location of the chapter house.
9. _____ points
10. AP brother Mark Dixon is also a founding brother at ____ University
12. _____ rose
16. local fraternity that eventually became Alpha Sig, NJIT
17. it will rise from the ashes
18. "stars" on the sable band
21. the school of our founding
22. brother in charge of our web site
24. the first president of Alpha Rho
25. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd used to be known as _____ street
26. chapter for deceased brothers
27. Alpha Sigma Phi is the _____ oldest national fraternity
28. the first "chapter house"
29. national newsletter
30. _____ 6, 1845

Down

1. an award for outstanding alumni (3 words)
2. Louis _____
3. a reason for being: to perpetuate _____
5. _____ night: a traditional pledge event
11. the Stevens chapter of Alpha Sig (2 words)
13. causa latet vis est _____
14. a famous Alpha Sig (2 words)



15. since 1995, the annual convention has been held in _____, NJ.
17. the first Greek letter society (3 words)
19. ancient lamp of _____
20. he's a gentleman and a _____ with a heart beneath his vest
23. there is no rule number _____
27. undergraduate president for the 1998-1999 school year



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