

ALPHA RHO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



CHI PSI FRATERNITY

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

August 10, 2008

21 Bunker Hill Run
East Brunswick, New Jersey 08816

Dear Brother,

I would like to thank all the alumni Brothers of Alpha Rho for your continued support of the Association during the last academic year. It is my pleasure to report to you the continued success of the Alpha and our Alumni Association.

During a visit to Vanderbilt University in Nashville for last year's 166th Chi Psi Convention, I purchased a copy of the book Utopia, written by Sir Thomas More in 1536 about the time of the Renaissance in Europe. I was impressed by part of the description, given by the author of one of the characters in the book named Peter Giles, in which he wrote:

... a man there in his country of honest reputation and also preferred to high promotions, worthy truly of the highest, for it is hard to say whether the young man be in learning or in honesty more excellent. For he is both of wonderful virtuous conditions, and also singularly well learned, and towards all sorts of people exceeding gentle, but towards his friends so kindhearted, so loving, so faithful, so trusty, and of so earnest affection that it were very hard in any place to find a man that with him in all points of friendship may be compared.

Having read that description at the time of the Convention during which we won the Thayer Trophy and saw Brother Michael Wallace win the Stanley Birge Award and Brother Henry D. Bignell awarded the Distinguished Service Award, I could only imagine that the description of Peter Giles was one which would be applicable to many a Brother of Chi Psi! While last year's Convention and accomplishments remain a vivid memory of great pride for Alpha Rho, this year has proven to be just as memorable for many reasons!

At this year's Convention, **Brother Henry E. Bartels, Rho '45, Psi '48**, and his wife **Nancy Horton Bartels**, announced the establishment of the **Bartels Graduate School Fellowship**. This Fellowship is in addition to the Harold G. "Bones" Lundberg Scholarships, created by Brother Bartels and his wife, which are given to many undergraduates each year to honor undergraduate academic excellence in memory of our beloved Brother Harold G. "Bones" Lundberg, Rho '24. Brother Bartels was awarded a Distinguished Service Award at Convention's Final Banquet, where he acknowledged the loving support of his wife Nancy in his desire to recognize the educational accomplishments of undergraduate Chi Psi Brothers.

Our own undergraduate Brothers were the recipients of four scholarships and two graduate fellowships awarded by the Chi Psi Educational Trust at a dinner held during the Convention. We can take pride that in addition to the receipt of these awards, the Brothers of Alpha Rho continue to

be in the top ten Alphas donating to the Educational Trust (not including gifts to Endowment or the Jeffrey Hall Campaign) and the third highest Alpha by number of donors to the Trust. Our undergraduate Brothers continue to be recognized for their academic accomplishments, while our alumni continue to be among the biggest supporters of the Educational Trust – all of which you may take deserved pride!

The Annual Convention afforded me time with other alumni association presidents, undergraduates, Central Office staff, and the Fraternity and Educational Trust leadership. Chi Psi Fraternity continues to have the outstanding leadership of Brother Dr. Daniel B. Ahlberg, Nu '67, who addressed the undergraduates at the Convention and urged them to pursue the goals of our Fraternity's traditions of excellence in all things. Brother Ahlberg is a dynamic #7 of our Fraternity who truly embodies the personal characteristics of an ideal Brother of Chi Psi and supports the goals of the Fraternity with his time, dedication and financial support. Brother Julian B. Emerson, B '80, continues to serve as the Chairman of the Educational Trust – doing a fine job managing the assets of the Trust to ensure that the Fraternity and its educational objectives are achieved. Brother Samuel C. Bessey, Eta Delta '97, as the #23 leads all of the Central Office Staff with educational programs and guidance that makes our Fraternity the best at Rutgers and across the country! I encourage all Brothers to make an effort to travel to the 168th Convention, to be held next year at Duke University, North Carolina, and meet these great Chi Psi Brothers.

We are truly blessed at Alpha Rho by the legacy of Brother “Bones” Lundberg who touched so many Brothers lives through his years of involvement with Alpha Rho. We see it on the national fraternity level with the educational scholarships that I mentioned earlier. But we continue to see it manifested by the involvement of Brothers such as Brother John Schwanhausser, Rho '46, who serves as Chairman of the Alpha Rho Memorial Foundation. I recently had the pleasure of attending a meeting of the Foundation with Brother Schwanhausser, Brother Mark Musser, Rho '86, Brother Henry D. Bignell, Rho '77 and Brother David Hopkins, Rho '89 and learn about their continued success in providing scholarship incentive awards to undergraduate Brothers. “Jack” was preceded as Chairman of the Board for the Foundation by T. Girard Wharton, Rho '25, who was a classmate and friend of “Bones”. You will be pleased to see the Foundation's annual report which will detail the great work that the Foundation continues to perform for Alpha Rho's undergraduates.

Just last night I had the pleasure to dine with Brothers Hubert L. Pierson, Rho '45 and George H. “Buddy” Grover, Rho '49, as well as with Brothers Bignell, Illuzzi and Royce. Brother Pierson was awarded the Distinguished Service Award at the 1989 Convention that we hosted at Rho for all of his work and dedication to Chi Psi - including the planning and execution of our Convention at Rutgers. One of our reasons for visiting with Brother Hubert was to briefly discuss our desire to again host the Chi Psi Convention at Rutgers! The Convention in 2012 will coincide with Alpha Rho's 125th Anniversary in the Lodge at 114 College Avenue – Rutgers's finest address! It is my hope that the alumni will support the idea of hosting the Convention as we did in 1964 and 1989!

If we do host the Convention in 2012, it will be Alpha Rho's opportunity to again “show off” the Lodge at Rutgers University with the Lodge in even better condition than prior years! As you will learn in the near future, **Brother Henry E. Bartels, Rho '45, Psi '48**, and his wife **Nancy Horton Bartels** have donated the sum of \$200,000 to the replacement of the kitchen of the Lodge with an entirely new kitchen and apartment wing. Brother “Hank” and Nancy generously donated the money so that the undergraduate Brothers could enjoy the benefits of a modern kitchen and cooking facility that would allow for the formal meals that have been such a tradition at Alpha Rho.

The renovations have already begun - the foundation is completed and framing is about to begin. We have also undertaken necessary repairs required by the City of New Brunswick including the replacement of the front porches (which were leaning over), sidewalks along the street (which have cracks and are lifted in spots), painting of the exterior brick (the paint is peeling) and removal of the tree in the parking lot – which is very dead! We sought a number of bids for the construction and have been fortunate to have Brother Henry D. Bignell undertake the planning and construction of this major project at a very good price with the assistance of Brother Nicholas Fabbroni, Rho '85. We hope to have a date for a dedication of the new wing and renovations in the beginning of November, so please watch for future correspondence.

To ensure that our educational and fraternal goals are met, the Association looks forward in the next academic year to the continued leadership of Brother Dr. Michael C. Illuzzi, Ph.D, Rho '77 as the academic advisor to the undergraduates and Brother William A. Royce, Rho '78 as the Vice President of the Association for Alumni Affairs. Both Michael and William are also serving as co-chairmen of the fundraising campaign for further renovation of the Lodge - about which you will hear from them. Brother Illuzzi has done a tremendous job already as the “Shepard” of the gift from Brother Bartels and Nancy Bartels. Brother Royce has agreed to help in the Association’s fundraising efforts as we approach the next stage of renovations. However, I would also like to recognize and thank Brother Royce for restoring a tradition performed by Brother “Bones” Lundberg - by sending birthday cards to each of our members during the year. Bill sends each Brother a warm and fraternal greeting on their birthday on behalf of the Association which truly expresses and reflects the Bonds of our Fraternity.

On behalf of a grateful alumni Brotherhood, I express the gratitude of the entire Association and its members to these Brothers for their time, dedication and generosity to the Fraternity. I extend to all of other members, who are too numerous to mention here, all of your assistance, time, dedication and generosity to the Association. The undergraduate organization of Alpha Rho was able to return to prominence at Rutgers and in Chi Psi because of its dedicated alumni like each of you who have participated in so many ways!

However, we need your continued help to continue the success at Alpha Rho! Please send me a card, letter or e-mail to let me know if we should make plans for the 2012 Convention at Alpha Rho! If you have not seen your Brothers in the recent past, you will have four years to plan to see them back at the Lodge! Planning for a Convention takes about four years of planning and requires many Brothers to give of their time and talents to have a great experience. Please let me know how and in what capacity you would like to assist the Association, our plans for the Convention or the undergraduates themselves.

Our undergraduates are a very bright and ambitious group of Brothers who need our guidance in their educational pursuits, career development and fraternal bonds. Please let me know if you are able to speak at the Lodge about your career or education. If you can provide an internship or career guidance to an undergraduate, please let me know. I know that there are many alumni that have some assistance to offer and we would like to hear from you.

Again, thank you for your continued support. I hope to see you at the Lodge in the coming year!

Yours in the Bonds,

Vincent Le Blon, P 1977, President