

Alpha Rho Alumni Association

November 15, 2013

Dear Brother in Chi Psi,

I'm the first person to admit just how busy our lives are – and that's why I want to thank you in advance for reading this! Please know your other Brothers are thinking of you and that I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones healthy and happy. No matter where we live now or how old we get, there will always remain in us that young Rutgers man whose life began "on the banks." Chi Psi really *is* a thing of the spirit and as our motto says, "Once a Chi Psi, always a Chi Psi." Our Fraternity has endured for 172 years because it serves a valuable purpose and indelibly and positively touches our young Brothers' lives. As the new President of the Alpha Rho Alumni Association I wanted to send you this note to let you know that we have started on one of the most challenging adventures in our history and we will need the involvement of every one of you to be successful.

The State of Alpha Rho is Sound!

Our undergraduate Brothers have now begun another successful semester with 100% occupancy at The Lodge with 28 live-in and 46 total Brothers. Since our re-founding in 2004, the Alpha has made steady progress both on campus and within the National Fraternity. In 2007 – for the first time in fifty years – we won The Thayer Trophy; designating Alpha Rho as the finest Alpha in all of Chi Psi. This honor was repeated in 2009. The past two years the Rutgers Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs has recognized the undergraduates as a Four Star (out of four) organization on campus with achievements of 100% in eight out of nine rating categories ranging from Academics to Leadership to Community Involvement. In addition, at this past summer's National Convention, two undergraduates, the current #1, Phil Lubik, P'14 and the current Recruitment Chair, Anthony Rodriguez, P'13 received major scholarships for Community Service and Academics, respectively.

Alpha Rho's success has not happened in a vacuum. It's due to the hard work of many dedicated Alumni and Active Brothers who are determined to make sure that Alpha Rho will flourish. One of these Brothers, to whom we owe so much, is Vince Le Blon, P'77. Brother Le Blon led the team chartered to re-colonize Alpha Rho, he petitioned the Fraternity in 2004 to restore our charter, and was involved in all of the activities needed to re-establish the Alpha. In addition, for more than a decade he served as our Alumni Association President. In 2011, Vince received the Distinguished Service Award from the National Fraternity for his life-long dedication to our silver Bonds. We can't ever thank him enough for all he's done – just as I can't express now what an honor it is for me to follow in Vince's footsteps. I would also like to express our appreciation to Gary Bowne, P'76 and Mike Illuzzi, P'77 who both recently stepped down from the Board after countless years and contributions as Trustees.

This is an exciting and significant time in Alpha Rho's 134-year history and – although I can't describe everything we're doing now – I want to share with you three very important things.

Alpha Rho Really Makes A Difference

Regardless what negative things the media reports, on today's campuses fraternities – and of course especially Chi Psi – fulfill very valuable roles. To know that is true, all you need do is to remember your own undergraduate years. Chi Psi leverages the intangibles in our young Brothers' lives and teaches them what they can't learn in the classroom. We often say it: the values, experiences and exalted friendships that our undergraduates enjoy as Brothers at Alpha Rho continue to help them,

nourish them and inspire them throughout their lives – long after they’ve left New Brunswick and 114 College Avenue. Our Alumni Association has three missions; 1) to ensure the excellence of our Active Brotherhood, 2) to maintain The Lodge physical plant, and 3) to nurture the important relationships with you, our Alpha Rho alumni. The Alumni Association has also been working very closely with the Alpha Rho Memorial Foundation and we are now in lockstep to help support these objectives.

Since our re-founding, our day-to-day efforts maintaining a 100+ year-old structure and developing our young Brothers have been a real success story – and Brother, going forward, **I would ask you to be a part of this great success story!**

Alpha Rho Needs Our Alumni

Including our 13 newest alumni Brothers who graduated this year, we currently have 997 living Alpha Rho alumni! Last year only 90 of you were dues paying members (only 9%). We currently have ten Alumni on the Alumni Association Board, nine different Alumni on the Memorial Foundation Board, and six additional Alumni on the Alpha Rho Renovation Committee. **We need to do better!!** Annual dues for our Alumni Association are still just \$50. A dues slip and return-addressed envelope are enclosed for your use, or if more convenient, please support Alpha Rho online at: www.AlphaRhoAlumniAssociation.org where there is the opportunity to give via credit card through a link to the National website www.chipsi.org/give/rho or through a PayPal link. And there are open Officer and Trustee positions on both the Alumni and Foundation Boards. In addition, there are a myriad of projects either ongoing or “on the list” that need resources of time, talents, and funding.

It’s a challenge to keep in touch with everyone, but we’re trying. I hope that you enjoy receiving and reading “The RhoBoat” online – or for those Brothers without email addresses, receiving a copy mailed to you. As I write this, another “RhoBoat” is in the works and will go out during the fall semester. However, the rich life of our Alpha can’t be fully conveyed in a newsletter and I invite you whenever you’re in the area to please visit The Lodge and see first-hand why all of us are so proud of Alpha Rho. For instance, the undergraduates would love to have you join them for dinner. Continuing our long tradition, formal dinners are still served Monday through Thursday at 7:30 PM during the academic year. To join them, please contact the current #1, Phil Lubik, whose information is also included below. The undergraduates have very full schedules, but they, like we, realize there wouldn’t be an Alpha Rho today without our dedicated alumni. So I’d also like to invite you to attend **Alpha Rho’s Fall 2013 Initiation Banquet to be held at The Lodge at 5pm on Saturday, November 16, 2013.** To attend any of these events, please feel free to contact me, Brother Royce or the #1, Phil Lubik.

Alpha Rho’s Incredible Future

Brother Bill Royce, P’77, our Vice President of Alumni Relations, recently came across this quote which defines honor as “knowing how little we bring and being inclined to discharge the debt; since we cannot repay our ancestors, our descendants become our natural creditors.” All of us have been richly blessed by being a Brother and being part of an important tradition that goes back 172 years. **It has come time for our Alumni to give back in a major way.**

The original section of the Lodge, with the dining room and foyer, was built in 1859. The section holding the Living Room and Library was added in 1926. Amazingly the Lodge still contains the original cloth covered wiring, cast iron drains, and original radiators and steam piping. Unfortunately these obsolete building materials are starting to cause some problems. The radiator heating system is extremely inefficient with many of the radiators not working properly or leaking. We have had a drain pipe break causing extensive water damage in the Dining Room and more importantly we have had

several near misses with electrical panel shorts and burned out breakers as the current electrical system is ill equipped to handle the electrical demands of today's students.

Up to this point we have survived with "patch" jobs. The time has come to undertake a major capital program to upgrade the infrastructure and appearance of the Lodge to meet today's and tomorrow's requirements for Building Codes and the evolving needs of the active Brotherhood. The first phase; hiring an architect and developing preliminary drawings and budget costs, as well as a legal review of the plans has been completed. Highlights of the work planned include:

- Fully gutting the 2nd and 3rd floors to update all of the infrastructure and room furnishings to current codes, including Federal ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) requirements
- Update heating system to a more efficient and environmentally friendly system
- Increase occupancy from 28 to 36
- Restore / install hardwood floors throughout the Lodge
- Revitalizing the basement as the gathering place by increasing head space, filling in "the pit", and improving ventilation

The price tag for this project? \$3.0 million. We will need everyone's assistance in order reach this number. You will be personally contacted by a Brother to gain your support and answer any questions that you may have. The intent is to bring the Lodge up to 21st century standards and ensure that it will continue to be a source of pride for all Brothers "In the Bonds".

How do we get to where we need to be? **Participation.**

- We want to see our payment of annual dues payments increase to 50%
- We need to increase membership on the two Boards by six - eight Brothers
- We need 100% participation by Alumni for the Lodge renovation with time, talents and contributions

In our attempt to streamline costs and to reach as many Brothers as possible, we're doing everything possible to compile all Brothers' email addresses. So, if we don't have your email address, I urge you to reach us using any of the ways listed below, including the individual Trustee contact info for all our other Association Trustees and Officers. Thank you.

Yours In The Bonds,

Kevin

Kevin R. Haynes P'81 | Trustee & President | **Alpha Rho Alumni Association**
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Alpha Rho #1 chipsirutgers@gmail.com (this stays the same as the #1 changes)

P.S. Many of you know me through the annual Alumni Dart Tournament. And it's never too early to mark your calendars: **the 23rd Annual Alpha Rho Dart Tournament is scheduled for February 22, 2014.** Even if you're not a dart-playing aficionado, this event is a great opportunity to meet old and new Brothers. For the last few years, more than 100 Alpha Rho Alumni Brothers, ranging in classes from 1972 to 2012, have attended, making it one the largest Chi Psi events in the country. Please feel free to contact me regarding the Dart Tournament – or about anything.

For those Brothers I haven't met yet, I pledged Alpha Rho with 14 other amazing men in December 1977 and graduated from Rutgers in 1981. I met my wife Lydia at Rutgers, our daughter Erica just graduated from the Rutgers College of Nursing, and our son Travis is a junior at Rutgers and a member of the school Volleyball team. We have lived in Hillsborough, NJ for the past 13 years. I've always had a passion for Chi Psi and Alpha Rho. After a stint as a Trustee on the Alumni Board in the late 80's I joined the Board as a Trustee again in 2010. Then in September 2012 I was honored to succeed Brother Le Blon, P'77 as the Association President.

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