

rho chronicle

RHO CHAPTER OF DELTA TAU DELTA

President's report – Rho Chapter creates leaders

By Benjamin Scatuorchio '11

It is easy to see why the men of Delta Tau Delta are leaders on their respective campuses and communities. We hold ourselves to a higher standard, expecting nothing but greatness and leading by example. 2009 was a tremendous year for the Rho Chapter on all fronts, and we will continue onward, with intensity and devotion.

The year kicked off with our keystone event, Career Connections, which featured a networking seminar and panel discussion on the job market. That night, after Career Connections, Alumni Casino Night played host to 75 Delta alumni, helping raise \$2,000 for the Bleed Purple Charity.

Rho Chapter is getting even further involved in its community. In addition to volunteering at the Hoboken Shelter and the Elysian Charter School, the brothers participated in a non-partisan voting awareness initiative. Rho brothers teamed up with the Stevens Political Awareness Committee, educating the community about their rights and registering them to vote. Also, the brotherhood participated in a breast cancer walk, raising money and awareness for breast cancer research.

In the academic world, Chad Campion, our academic chair, has reinstated the Purple and Gold Games. Purple and Gold Games is a scholastic competition wherein the brothers are divided into two teams (Purple and Gold) and each team is required to submit their graded

work for weekly review. The brother who submits the most points each week receives the "Brother of the Week Award" and a small prize. At semester end, the team with the most points also receives a prize. Chad has also started a house tutoring/exam review program in addition to reorganizing and restructuring the academic archives. You can see this hard work paying off as the house GPA continues to climb.

Athletics in our house continues to thrive, with the lacrosse team making a strong finish in the Empire 8 and the soccer team continuing a successful season. In IFC sports we continue to respectfully dominate in all areas.

Over the past few years, the IFC here at Stevens has been deteriorating and, due to a lack of leadership and participation, has led to the decay of a once-prominent organization. Rho Chapter has taken a lead in reorganizing and establishing the IFC as a strong governing body. Through his hard work and dedication, our former IFC representative, Brother Teddy Pfeiffer, has recently been elected vice president of the IFC, and we congratulate him.

House renovations seem to be a recurring theme with Rho Chapter; we take pride in our brotherhood, and we want our Shelter to reflect that mentality. This semester we recently installed new wood flooring on the first floor. In addition, we refurbished the trophy cases donated to the

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New LAD Memorial Display

Delt Shelter's facelift

By Burke Reynolds '10

As many of you are aware, four years ago the Shelter underwent a roughly \$1.5 million renovation. For many reasons (one of which being that the house is older than airplanes) this was a much-needed renovation to improve the building's integrity. The only problem was that due to fire code and safety regulations the house came out looking like Davis Hall on the inside. Linoleum flooring, 1.5-inch-thick fireproof doors, plain white wall paint and standard dorm room furnishings were among a few areas that detracted from a homey feel to the house. But, thanks to the efforts of our brothers and several private contractors, the house is starting to resemble the grandeur of old.

Paint has gone up on most of the walls in the house over the past few semesters. The atrium on the first floor is sporting a royal blue finish while the second and third floors feature a mix between blue, yellow, and white. Many of the doors in the house have also been painted over with an array of different colors and designs to give a personal touch to each room's entrance. Kodiak's door is now sporting the classic silver and green tin colors that accompanied Lee Dowches in his time at Stevens. Recently, the first floor was given a brand new look with the installation of faux-hardwood floors. The material is vinyl, but the look is classy, and spill-proof. Accompanying the flooring was the installation of two glass trophy cases and a brand new LAD memorial glass case. The trophy cases are now proudly displaying achievements dating back to the 1950s, and the LAD case is proudly displaying the legacy of a fallen brother. All of these add up to an increasingly impressive feel to the Shelter.

Plans are now in the works to bring the basement up to speed with the rest of the house. The floors have been cleaned and the walls are in the process of being stripped of old paint, sealed, and repainted. Ultimately, the goal is to put a waterproof polymer layer of flooring down over the cement to keep water out when it rains and to make the floor-cleaning process an easier task after social gatherings.

With all these new improvements, the house is starting to take on a new atmosphere. Our pride in our Shelter grows with every year. Ultimately, our Shelter is a reflection of our fraternity, of our alumni, and of the undergraduate chapter. Basically we're just trying to polish the mirror.

A very Delt homecoming

By Burke Reynolds '10

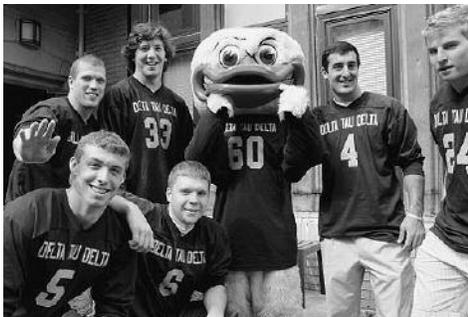
Homecoming 2009 was an eventful weekend for the Delta Tau Delta Fraternity on the Stevens' campus. Saturday started off with alumni Brian Lalli's induction into the Stevens Hall of Fame. With so many alumni making the trip to campus for the weekend, it was the perfect setting to invite them to the Delt house to introduce them to our newly renovated first floor. The floor itself is now sporting a brand new vinyl hardwood finish and two glass panel trophy cases proudly displaying achievement dating back to the 1950s.

The main reason for the alumni gathering, however, was the inauguration of the new Lee Allen Dowches Memorial. The memorial itself is a custom-made display case built and installed by the father of a recent alumnus, Will Fagnat. Inside is Lee's old Delt Jersey framed with his badge pin, along with his eulogy written by close friends in the fraternity and the LAD scholarship plaque proudly displaying each year's recipient. This scholarship is one of the most respected awards in Delta Tau Delta because it is awarded to brothers who embody Lee's Character.

"He had class, style, and that certain flair that destiny seems to favor. We picked him to be the model of dedication no matter what the task. You couldn't help but be pleased to know this warm, caring person." - Lee Allen Dowches' Eulogy

Present at the gathering were many of Lee's classmates, including Shahin Guity who shared

with the undergraduates a firsthand experience of who Lee was. Most of us had read his eulogy in the past, but had little knowledge of his story. Hearing it firsthand from a friend and classmate gave the undergrads a more personal understanding of a great young man. All Rho



Brothers with Attila the Duck

Chapter members can feel a sense of pride in being associated with the legacy Lee left behind after less than two decades.

Members of the school administration, including Vice President Weatherall, Dean Kenneth Nilsen, and Athletic Director Russell Rogers were present for the ceremony, along with all of the undergrad fraternity members. The current Delta Tau Delta members were sporting throwback football jerseys, replicas of the original jerseys Lee's class wore, thanks to alumnus Joe Llano's efforts to find a company that still made them. Even Attila the duck, our school mascot, made an appearance, wearing a Delt jersey in place of the traditional Stevens one. Andrew Santana, a current undergraduate brother, was the man inside the suit. After the ceremony, many undergrads, alumni, and Attila went to help support the men's soccer team as they rolled over RIT in a huge Homecoming win. After that, all were treated to the men's lacrosse alumni game as the alumni made a strong showing in a 7-5 defeat at the hands of the current varsity team. All of these events added up to a great Homecoming Saturday for Delta Tau Delta. From the oldest alumnus to the youngest undergrad, every Delt came away with the feeling that it was a day to remember.

Frederick F. Kellogg Jr. '50 keeps busy as the "Governor General of the Hereditary Order of Descendants of Colonial Governors." Reach him at P.O. Box 1168, Little River, SC 29566-1168.

Raymond E. Troeger '51 has sold his home and settled into a new situation; he notes he has less time now that he is retired. Reach him at his new address: 11170 Maple Knoll Ter., L317, Cincinnati, OH 45246; send e-mail to rdtroeger@aol.com.

Emil G. Pavlik Jr. '58 lives at 18 King Pl., Amityville, NY 11701. He writes, "I finally retired in 2009 from Grumman. I now play golf. Is anyone from '54-'58 on Long Island still around? Send e-mail to milpavlik@yahoo.com.

Richard B. Clement '59 is a retired colonel of the USAF. Reach him at 12106 Gary Hill Dr., Fairfax, VA 22030; send e-mail to clem.clement@cox.net.

George Toelcke '65 sold his company in 2006. He and wife, Teri, then moved to rural Utah to pursue equestrian interests. He rides motorcycles and guides ski tours. Stay in touch at 323 Hound St., Morgan, UT 84050; gendeavors@gmail.com.

David R. Whiteside '66 still works for Boeing in software and enjoys skiing. Reach him at 32116 18th Ave. SW, #226, Federal Way, WA 98023.

Alexander P. Ward '71 has moved to 9915 Chestnut Ave., N, Brooklyn Park, MN 55443; send e-mail to al.ward@mcquay.com.

John P. Stegenga Jr. '03 is now the owner of Woodcock Auto Body. Reach him at 203 S Searsville Rd., Montgomery, NY 12549; send e-mail to stegs569@gmail.com.

DECEASED

We regret to report the deaths of:

Joseph A. Ogando '64
on June 10, 2009

Frederick L. Bissinger '33
on March 3, 2009

Delta Tau Delta traditions are kept alive at Rho Chapter

By **Burke Reynolds '10**

It seems that a principal part of any fraternity is its traditions. Every alumnus can remember these well into their later years and every student looking to join knows what a significant role they play in our organization. Almost nobody sees these traditions as an outdated or inferior way of thinking, and most cherish the ability to be a part of them. Why is that? What is it that draws so many of us to fraternity ritual, to the practices of our faith, even to the procedures of our government? The simple answer is that it's human nature. More specifically, I believe it is an innate desire to be part of something we deem bigger than ourselves.

In my five years at Stevens I have not met an alumnus who didn't talk to me about some chapter tradition or other. Almost everyone has a good story to accompany that tradition. Traditions don't need to be a sobering religious experience; not everything worth doing in life is supposed to bring a nostalgic tear to your eye. Some experiences may be remembered by how hard you laughed; others by how little. But every tradition should bring something to the table; there's always something you can take away from it. I've been through nine semesters—with the same traditions repeating—and I can honestly say I've gotten something new out of them each time. Many describe college as four or five years lumped together into one hazy vision of pretty girls and cheap thrills but, in a small way, each year of college represents a different stage of your life. And each year you observe the rituals and traditions in a unique light,

no matter how small the light changes. I'm happy to say that after almost five years in Rho Chapter I'm enjoying our traditions more and more each semester.

On Friday, October 9, 2009, we welcomed 15 new members in our fall pledge night. There was fun to be had for all in the events of the night.

Some of the events were more fun for the brothers and some were definitely more enjoyable for the pledges. Not to say we didn't have fun either; it's just that I don't typically match up well against any pledge over six feet in a game of strength.

When everyone met up later to go to the public celebration, the new members had an air of excitement that accompanies the events of pledge night, coupled with the fresh scent of Fabreze on their pledge shirts that they didn't have enough time to properly wash. They were asking questions like how long they were supposed to walk up the same staircase they were carried up. And my reply was there are alumni, age 70-plus, who have only gone up one staircase from pledge night on, a prospect that they enjoyed. As one of the oldest Delts currently in the house, I am thankful to have had another chance to witness

the enthusiasm displayed by our newest members as they were welcomed into our brotherhood.

As the head of ritual, I am charged with the responsibility of observing all of our rituals and traditions, a position that I have truly enjoyed for the past two semesters. The one thing, however, that I have noticed is that many of our chapter

traditions do not have a known origin. Through my conversations with alumni at various alumni events I have been able to regain some of this history, but there is still much I want to learn. I have added a new title to the position of second vice president of chapter historian. I feel that many of our traditions need a story to go along with them. This is

where the alumni who are reading this come in. I am giving an open invitation to all to share with me your stories in Delta Tau Delta. You can explain the evolution of Work Weekend and the story behind each room's name (minus Kodiak, as I'm pretty set on that one). One of the most important traditions in Rho Chapter is telling the story of a brotherhood 135 years in the making. I hope that with enough help I, along with the other members of the undergraduate chapter, can give this story the proper place it deserves.



Homecoming 2009

President's report— Rho Chapter creates leaders

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house by the class of 1960.

The 2009 Homecoming was especially meaningful, with the installation and dedication of the Lee Allen Douches Memorial. Over 50 alumni and family members were in attendance as we dedicated the beautiful memorial to our fallen comrade.



New living room furnishings

Come see the memorial, featured in the newly renovated foyer, and pay your respects.

Last semester, the house was focused on attitude; this semester we are all about organization. House Manager and Corresponding Secretary Chris Ciabattone is a big part of that organization. An expert in communication and motivation, Chris has helped to unite these brothers under common ideals and can efficiently delegate responsibility. Second Vice President Burke Reynolds has been diligently revising the bylaws and judicial processes so that we can continue to run as a well-oiled machine. Treasurer Jack Stafford keeps the books as tight as the brotherhood so that we remain a solvent and productive organization.

Keep your eyes open because there are other great things happening at Rho Chapter. Last November we hosted a philanthropy event in the Babbio Center for the Shana Foundation, raising money and awareness for the fight against bacterial meningitis. We also have big plans for basement renovations as well as many other fun and positive events for brothers, alumni, and the community, so don't miss out!

Delta Tau Delta supports Stevens athletics

By **Martin Angus '10**

On Saturday, September 26, 2009, Delta Tau Delta Fraternity brothers, as well as alumni, joined forces to proudly raise the "Delta Tau Delta Supports Stevens Athletics" banner over the stands on Debaun Field. It was a glorious day to hold our Stevens Institute of Technology Homecoming celebration as our Stevens men's soccer team rode to a 4-0 victory over Rochester Institute of Technology.

As anyone you may see walking around Stevens knows, the Delta Tau Delta Fraternity is home to many student athletes and All-Americans. We take pride in excelling at both athletics as well as academics here at Stevens and believe that having a strong balance is the guide to healthy and successful life in and out of school.

Remember: Delta Tau Delta Supports Stevens Athletics!



Rho Chronicle is published regularly by the Delta Tau Delta Fraternity at Stevens for its members and friends. Alumni news and pictures are always welcome. Please direct all communications to Rho Chapter of Delta Tau Delta, P.O. Box 35, New Brunswick, NJ 08903-0035