

Sigma Pi Alumni Announcement

Volume II, Number II



August 2010



In this edition....

Alumni Update
Active Chapter Update
Homecoming Preview
Alumni Goals
Housing Update
Social Networking

Check out the Fraternity on the web at www.ncsusigmapi.com

Letter from the President

The first full year of the re-vamped Sigma Pi Alumni Association was definitely a successful one. Many good things have happened, but there is still a ton to accomplish. We've continued having monthly meetings, setting up committees, getting more people involved, and best of all, rekindling a bunch of old friendships. If you haven't already, please do get involved!!!!

Our Board of Directors is comprised of seven gentlemen who donate their time and their ideas to making Sigma Pi the best it can be. The seven board positions are staggered 3-year terms. Holdovers from the 2009 Board are Dan Ingram, Jack Daniels, Tommy Rodwell, Grady Sykes, and myself. Our two new Board members for 2010 are Steele Hall & Speedy Mitchell. Many thanks to these guys for all their dedication!!!!

2010 Sigma Pi Alumni Association				
<u>Board of Directors Info</u>				
<u>First</u>	<u>Last</u>	<u>Office Title</u>	<u>Term Exp.</u>	<u>Email</u>
Brent	Brewbaker	President	Feb-11	ncsubrew@aol.com
Jack	Daniels	Secretary	Feb-12	danielsj@aatcc.org
Steele	Hall	Treasurer	Feb-13	steele.hall@smallemoughtocare.com
Dan	Ingram	Vice-President	Feb-12	ingramdan@nc.rr.com
Speedy	Mitchell	Director	Feb-13	paulmitchellncsu@hotmail.com
Tommy	Rodwell	Director	Feb-12	tommy.rodwell@gmail.com
Grady	Sykes	Director	Feb-11	gsykes@nc.rr.com
<u>Responsibilities</u>				
<u>First</u>	<u>Last</u>	<u>Office Title</u>	<u>Initial Focus Area</u>	
Brent	Brewbaker	President	Facilitating the Organization	
Jack	Daniels	Secretary	Administration / Newsletter / Minutes / By-Laws	
Steele	Hall	Treasurer	Treasurer / Controller for Actives / 3rd C Mentor	
Dan	Ingram	Vice-President	Active Involvement / Guidance / Implementation	
Speedy	Mitchell	Director	Alumni Recruitment / Dues / Activities	
Tommy	Rodwell	Director	Website / Contact Information	
Grady	Sykes	Director	Housing (Chairman of Housing Committee)	

Call or email us, get involved! See you or hear from you soon!!

In the bond,

Brent Brewbaker Class of '93

Alumni Activities / Homecoming 2010

ALUMNI ACTIVITIES – YOU NEED TO GET INVOLVED

Not too many years ago, many of us heard that Rho Chapter was in trouble, and may not survive. It seems that after the sale of the Clark Avenue house, the Chapter kind of bounced around, looking for a home and an identity. However, due to the hard work of a few but dedicated actives at the time, and the resurgence of the Rho Alumni Association, the chapter is not only alive, but thriving. We owe a huge thanks to those actives, and to the alumni, many of whom are still serving on today's Alumni Association. Rho Chapter is one of the top fraternities on campus, with the actives very involved in campus politics and activities. And now the Alumni Association is likewise growing and getting stronger.

Here is how you can get involved. First, go to the Facebook site and type in Rho Chapter in the search bar. That will take you to the Rho Chapter Alumni Facebook page. Even if you don't know diddly about Facebook (like me), it is really simple. Enter your information, post a picture (get your kid or grandkid to help if you need to) and start making contacts. We currently have 66 members on the site. We need to have at least 100 by homecoming. So get on the site, and contact others to get on it as well.

The next thing to do is get involved by sending in \$50 for 2010 dues. You can mail it to the address on the Alumni website, or you can pay via Pay Pal on the site. We had 39 dues paying members in 2009. Our goal is to have 100 by the end of the year. An aggressive but not impossible goal. So please send in your dues, and also contact others to do the same.

The last thing to do is mark your calendar for homecoming. That is the November 13 game against Wake Forest. Just as important is the Alumni gathering at the house on Friday night. Last year we had 88 brothers attend this function. We want the 2010 version to be even bigger. OK, here's what to do. 1. Go to Facebook and enter your information. 2. Send in your 2010 dues. 3. Mark November 12/13 on your calendar to attend homecoming. 4. Contact your brothers you were in school with and get them involved as well.

Thanks for your interest, involvement, and support. Rho is in great shape, and we have the best actives and alumni in the long history of our great chapter. I look forward to seeing everyone in November.

Paul "Speedy" Mitchell, Class of '69.

Save the Date - Homecoming 2010

November 12th, 13th

More details to follow

Sage's Update

This past spring Rho Chapter continued to take steps towards becoming one of the leading fraternities on campus. With a total of ten new potential initiates, Rho chapter had one of the largest pledge classes on campus. Quantity however, is not the only great thing about the Spring 2010 pledge class. Their cumulative grade point average was the highest of any Rho Chapter pledge class in the last three years. With the help of these new members along with a new scholarship plan, we had a significant improvement in the cumulative grades of the chapter.

The fraternity house (located at 3414 Hillsborough Street), is constantly seeing improvements and there is always something going on there. The house will be completely full next semester with 13 brothers living in the house. We look forward to hosting multiple alumni events at the house, including the Alumni Homecoming Event. Some other events that the brothers are looking forward to hosting are the Centennial Campus Downhill Derby and football tailgates. The Downhill Derby is a soap box derby and is the newest of Rho Chapter's philanthropy events. We are always excited to see and meet alumni. We hope that many of you can make it out to these events and help to make them a success.

The brothers of Rho chapter are looking forward to continued success in the 2010-2011 school year.

New Initiates (10):

Joseph Devane, Michael Otteni, Thomas Stokes, Hal Nunn, Melvin Montes, Brad Kennedy, Micah Miller, Freddi Millebi, Nick Healy, Grant Russell

Michael Nguyen - Rho Chapter Sage

IFC President Update

During the 2009-2010 school year the IFC at NC State has continued its work on several long term initiatives and created many new programs. One particular initiative that we have been striving to put in place has been an IFC Judicial Board designed to take over the accountability function from the student conduct office and hear cases involving our chapters. By oath we have taken a responsibility to hold our brothers accountable, but not by just giving out penalties, but by proactive measures to make these experiences teachable moments and have everyone learn from them and prevent them in the future. That is why it is inherently important that our chapters be accountable to each other because we are not in the business of sanctioning people but of bettering the lives of our fellow Greeks by making these negative experiences positive strides in the correct direction.

Another area we are working on is recruitment, IFC has moved towards a more formalized structure to aid chapters in recruitment of incoming freshmen. For years incoming freshmen tend to go to one fraternity and decide on the merits of that single experience whether to go greek or not. Our program is designed to retain gentlemen in the recruitment process and give them opportunity to find the right greek experience for them. In order to do this we are working to create a week of all IFC events to get "rushees" out to council events to meet several chapters in order to have decide to "go greek", then a second week for chapter to hold the individual events in order to convince them their chapter is the right choice. Through this program we hope to increase chapter recruitment and retention rates throughout the council.

The last area I will highlight is communication. We have launched a new website www.ncsuifc.org a place for prospective student, current students, parents, and alumni to find out about the latest fraternity updates. We have current chapters listed, as well as the latest information on our programs, news, and anything greek at NC State. I encourage you to check it out and get involved with your undergraduate chapters. Whether you give time, money, or just stay informed with the latest happenings of the chapter, undergraduates can only succeed with the help of alumni.

If you have any questions, comments, or would like more information please do not hesitate to contact me:

Peter Barnes ncsuifc@gmail.com Interfraternity Council

Founder's Day 2010 Recap

Founders Day Attendance Growing, but More Alumni Participation is Welcome!

By Dan Ingram and Jack Daniels

The Rho Chapter Sigma Pi Alumni Association Board, active officers of Rho Chapter, and numerous alumni met at the Brownstone Hotel (located on Hillsborough Street) on February 20, 2010, to hear status reports and to discuss current issues of the active chapter and of the Alumni Association. There were approximately 30 individuals in attendance. In a sad coincidence, Brother Robert A. "Binky" Prichard, a brother known to many Rho Chapter alumni for decades, was laid to rest in Raleigh that morning. The following is a brief recap of issues discussed at the meeting:

Michael Nguyen, Sage, presented a report of the active brothers and pledges. Counting pledges and brothers, there were 57 actives at the time of the meeting. The fall 2009 Pledge Class had 14 members, and the spring 2010 Pledge Class began with 11. Michael reported that he is aiming to have 70 total actives and pledges after the fall 2010 rush. He reported that attendance at the Chapter meetings is improving, and he appreciated the help from the Alumni Association.

We learned from Clayton Atkins, Pledge Master, that pledges have 4 mandatory study halls per week, to help instill good study habits in these young men.

We also learned from the active officers that NC State is implementing a formalized rush for the Fall semesters (beginning Fall 2010) whereby individuals interested in joining a fraternity or sorority will be in a formal program of visiting all houses on campus. This formal rush will last four days. Sage Michael reported that Rho's advantage will be the location of the current house on Hillsborough Street, the brothers, and their organization for rush. The perceived disadvantage would be that they might lose more pledges than they currently lose to other fraternities, as all men interested in fraternities would be required to visit all active houses at State.

It was reported that the brothers try to match specific rushees to specific brothers, taking into account mutual hometowns, majors, etc. Michael stated that for Rho, he believes that a total of 70 actives is the magic number considering the size of the house, and their ability to engage a larger number with enthusiastic support would be challenging. He believes they can now start to be a little more selective in choosing pledges.

For those of you who have not visited Rho Chapter or NC State in a few years, it was reported that Rho is a medium-sized fraternity at State currently. Many of us alumni can remember when Rho struggled to maintain 25-30 actives!

Grades continue to be an issue, however. It was reported that the current House GPA was 2.42, shy of the required 2.5, at the time of the Founders' Day meeting. A 2.4 GPA has been achieved the past two semesters. It was reported, however, that Greek Life and IFC are pleased with the scholarship improvement plan Rho has laid out, and they have not been put on social probation. Probation would limit the brotherhood to only chapter service and philanthropy events—no parties.

It was reported that pledges that are not initiated due to poor grades will be allowed only one semester to get their grades up, or they will be turned out of the fraternity, and their membership rendered void. Pledges are now required to achieve a GPA of 2.25 to be initiated at Rho. Six pledges from the prior pledge class are on probation now. Study halls are held at Broughton Hall, and Rho now has a digital test bank (Poop file for us older folks). Many of us older guys might recall when "bull pledges" were allowed to hang around for years waiting to get their grades up to be initiated. This change to allowing only one extra semester to achieve required grades should serve to improve the overall grade point average of the chapter.

Continued —>

Founder's Day 2010 Recap (cont.)

Taylor Dillon, 2nd Counselor, reported that this year's ACE project is a Soap Box Derby working with the NCSU campus police. Proceeds will go to the Special Olympics. The brothers are trying to get other fraternities to participate in this event as well. To raise money, they anticipate providing T-shirts for \$50 donations, \$150 for an advertising panel on a car, and possibly \$250 for banners. Taylor reported that the campus police are really enthusiastic about this event and will be closing down a street in Raleigh to hold the event on Centennial Campus.

Will Lackey, Chapter Director, thanked all of the alumni present for their support, especially at the past Homecoming event. Will said that he will remain in this role during this year, but asked that other alumni get involved and give him some help. The role of the Chapter Director is to be available to answer actives' questions, to advise, but not to run the chapter. Will's cell phone number is 919-345-8202. He frequently attends chapter meetings. Will welcomes all alumni to get involved and help out with the local chapter.

It was mentioned during the Founders' Day meeting that Sigma Pi had the first fraternity house at NC State, and we desperately need to solve our lot and permanent housing challenges.

Brent Brewbaker, Alumni President, gave a brief overview of what had transpired over the year with the reactivated Alumni Association. He reported that only 1.5 years ago there were only three alumni who were actively involved. He reported that seven alumni last year at the prior Founders' Day meeting committed to leading the Alumni Association. They established several goals and made good progress toward some. These included: establishing a digital newsletter; developing an alumni homecoming event; helping get actives starting out well at their new house; developing a housing committee to investigate long-term alternatives for the chapter; gaining dues paying alumni; and in general increasing the communications about the actives and alumni to all interested alumni and active brothers. It was reported that for 2009, we enjoyed 39 dues paying alumni, and at least 12 had paid dues for 2010 by the time of the Founders' Day meeting. He expected a number of others to pay their dues during that meeting. The goal is to get 100 dues paying alumni by the end of 2010. Brent also reported that we had 88 alumni and their significant others at the 2009 Friday Night Homecoming event.

Brent stressed the goal of Rho having the strongest alumni association at NC State, and that their goal would be to create the strongest fraternity at NC State. We will work to improve the accuracy of the alumni database and to hopefully have a means for alumni to put any changes to their contact information on the website. Brent reported that of paramount importance is the need to sell the lot at Greek Way and to secure long-term housing for the chapter. Also discussed was the future naming of a building fund in honor of a deserving alumnus or two, once funds from selling the lot become available.

Chris Albers, former Alumni Association Treasurer, reported that the Alumni Association has approximately \$2,000 for paying taxes on the lot. Brent thanked Chris for his 11 years of service and reported to the attendees that Chris had indicated his desire to step down and that a new Treasurer would be determined (Steele Hall is now serving as Treasurer).

Tommy Rodwell provided an update of plans for an alumni page on the fraternity's website. He reported that we need to archive past newsletters and be able to collect alumni dues on-line through PayPal or some other on-line paying system. Tommy reported that he also planned to start a Facebook page and investigate other social media for the alumni such as a LinkedIn group. Tommy agreed to be the first administrator of these social media activities.

Continued —>

Founder's Day 2010 Recap (cont.)

Grady Sykes provided a housing update during the meeting, and details on the current status may be found in Grady's report below. A motion was made and unanimously approved to discuss with the sixteen alumni who purchased shares for financing the purchase of the lot on Greek Way, to determine if they would be willing to extend the time required for repayment of their loans and to reduce the agreed to interest rate. Brent reported that when the lot was purchased its tax value was \$200,000, and the lot had been appraised at \$300,000. Brent stressed that we really need to net at least \$125,000 to \$150,000 out of any sale, and that the current market economy is daunting for such a sale.

Brent next discussed the election of new Alumni Board officers. With Charlie Gardner's passing, he had asked Jack Daniels to assume the remainder of Charlie's term, and that we therefore need to find a replacement for Jack, whose original term was for only one year, and to find a replacement for Chris Albers. Jack agreed to serve out the remainder of Charlie's term. After discussion of the Board members' requirements to attend monthly meetings, to actively work to gain members and to contribute to the other alumni projects, Speedy Mitchell and Steele Hall were elected unanimously to fill the "wildcard" membership and a member from the 1980s respectively. Brent stated that at the first Alumni Board meeting in 2010, the seven Board members would decide amongst themselves as to which offices each of the seven would hold.

Brent then invited all to join him at Player's Retreat for lunch before the NC State basketball game at 2:00 p.m. At the close of the meeting, Jack rose and asked all to give a great vote of thanks for all of the hard work Brent did in leading the Alumni Association for the past year!

Jack Daniels Class of '72
Dan Ingram Class of '94

Housing Update

We are still trying to sell our lot on Greek Way since we do not have the funds to build a house. The lot has a tax value of \$200,000 with an appraised value of around \$300,000. The main obstacle in selling the lot is that most of it is zoned for fraternity or sorority use. We are discussing the zoning issue with City of Raleigh representatives and our neighbors on Greek Way to see if we can get it rezoned to allow for apartments or student housing. This will make the lot much more attractive for potential buyers. The improved economy should also help.

Meanwhile, the \$50,000 plus interest note on the lot will be due in August. We have contacted the 16 brothers who invested in the note. Some have agreed to extend the note for another year at a lower interest rate – 3%. A few have requested to sell their shares which will be available to other brothers. Our plans are to pay off the note with the sale of the lot hopefully within a year. The remaining funds will be used to start a long-term endowment for housing for the active brothers.

Grady Sykes Class of '58

Treasurer's Report

The account balance in the Alumni Account was \$4,250.00 as of 06/22/10. I have attached a form that each alumnus can use to pay dues in 2010. If you have not already paid your dues for 2010, please complete the form and mail it back to me with a check. I have recently replaced Chris Albers who has done a great job of managing the treasurer position. We currently have enough in the Alumni Account balance to pay the 2010 property taxes on the Greek Way property that is currently for sale, but we would like to build a cushion in the account to assist with the needs of maintaining the current fraternity house. I am working hard assisting Grady Sykes and Mike Kaney on the sale of the property (See Grady's report). Our attendance at homecoming last year was at an all-time high which helped in terms of alumni dues collection. I encourage everyone to attend homecoming, visit the house, and fellow alumni this year. We currently have a large active chapter, a great game with Wake Forest, and a good time will be had by all at 2010 homecoming (I will leave out the rhyming). We would like to thank the following Alumni who have renewed their dues in 2010, and I would like to challenge Alumni from the 80's to pay your dues and attend homecoming.
ITB,

Steele Hall Class of '88

2010 Current Members

Pat McKee
Chris Hultgren
Roy Carawan
Grady Sykes
Greg Roberts
Berkley Godehn
Terry Allen
Jack Daniels
Jay Dawkins
Steele Hall
Paul Mitchell

Tommy Rodwell
Brent Brewbaker
Dan Ingram
John Gibbings
Shane Ireland
Dave Butts
John Clark
Robert Liverman
John Campos
Carey Gupton
Pete Wilson

Thanks for your continued support!

Social Networking Update

As you now know, your Alumni Association is very busy with efforts to increase membership, determine the chapter's housing future, and create a cohesive network for both our alumni and active chapter. One of the easiest ways we have to communicate with and expand our membership is via social networking. Our three biggest venues for communicating information are (i) newsletters, (ii) our website, and (iii) Facebook.

First, we have our newsletters. In the future, we hope to designate a specific schedule for putting out newsletters, instead of on an as-needed basis. The intent of the newsletter is to provide a periodic update on the events and on-goings of the Alumni Association and the Chapter. We hope you find the newsletters insightful and helpful. Second is the Chapter's website, located at www.ncsusigmapi.com. We are currently in the process of updating the Alumni section of the website (please check it out), our goal is to have past newsletters, contact information for the Alumni Board (and eventually members), and upcoming events. We would welcome suggestions as to what else you want to see on the website. We envision the website being the main hub for everything Sigma Pi, with both the alumni and the active chapter. Finally, we have the Alumni Association Facebook page, accessible via the website and by searching Facebook for Sigma Pi Rho Chapter Alumni Association. Joining the Facebook page allows for discussion amongst members, locating old friends, and improved communications.

As you can see, we have a lot going on to help improve communication and interaction between our members. We hope you will take advantage of all these resources in the near future. Feel free to contact me at tommy.rodwell@gmail.com with any questions, we hope to hear from you soon!

Tommy Rodwell Class of '05

2010 Alumni Association Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Best Contact Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Pledge Semester/Year: _____ Graduation Year: _____

Membership Type: (Please Select)

Alumnus (More than 4 years removed from Undergraduate) - \$50.00/year _____

Young Alumnus (2-4 years removed from Undergraduate) - \$25.00/year _____

1st Year Alumnus (Up to 1 year removed from Undergraduate) - Free/1st yr. _____

Checks should be made payable to: Sigma Pi Alumni Association

Please fold form and remit with payment to: Steele Hall (Treasurer) at 1046 BRIGHTHURST Drive, Raleigh, NC 27605 or pay online using the Paypal link at www.ncsusigmapi.com.

The Sigma Pi Alumni Association will not sell or use your email address or phone number other than to communicate regarding the Association.