

Alpha Pi Lambda Alumni Newsletter



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President's Report

Greeting's everyone. I hope that you are all enjoying the summer and doing your best to survive the extraordinarily hot temperatures. Fall and (hopefully) cooler weather are right around the corner so, with the upcoming return to school routine rapidly approaching, I wanted to take the opportunity in this newsletter to recap some of the progress we made over the past few years and to also provide you with a look to the future.

We are going with a theme once again. This time around, the Alumni Exec agreed that since it has been over six years since we regained recognition by Drexel in spring of 2006 and almost four years since we moved back into the house in fall of 2008, we wanted to recollect on all that we have achieved to date and also to look to the future. Not just five years into the future, but rather 10, 25, 50 years into the future and ask ourselves, "What *do we want* the Pi to be and what *do we not want* the Pi to be?" say, 22 ½ years from now at the 100th A-Ball?

It seems like only a couple of months ago that I became President of the Alumni Association. It has now been two years. I cannot believe how quickly the time has passed, but I also cannot believe how much we have accomplished in such a short period of time. Not only did we re-colonize and move back into our "Castle", but we have increased the size of the brotherhood from 13 in 2006 to our current number of 71. A 446% increase in six years! Additionally, 26 have transitioned to the ranks of Alumni along the way.

We have stressed academics to the Undergrads and coached them to re-focus and recruit the right people, thus helping them improve from 11th out of 12 fraternities in IFC to 4th overall. This, I believe, is our single most important achievement.

We have also established an endowed *Alumni Scholarship Fund* and are set to make our first award in 2013. Few other Drexel fraternities can make that claim. Also, the annual off-site leadership retreats have, in my opinion, had a profound impact on shaping the mindset of the Undergrad Exec. As the boys transition from college to career, we are providing them with tools for success. We have also initiated the Alumni Mentoring Program (AMP) led by Anthony Casola to assist the Undergrads with their career aspirations. Another goal we set was to maintain the continued good working relationship that we have with Drexel officials. Proof that we are succeeding came recently when the Director of Fraternity and Sorority life said to me, "You guys are still the gold standard we use for IFC".

We have continued to encourage and promote Alumni/Undergrads activities such as the four core athletic events of football, basketball, volleyball and softball. We re-introduced the Work Weekends and co-sponsor the Senior Send-Off BBQ with the Undergrads every year. Also, for a third year running now, we are experiencing how much fun *family* events such as the "Pig-Nic" can be and how they help us realize our uniqueness amongst the other fraternities. Come 2013 we potentially could have three legacy brothers in the ranks! This would be an unprecedented feat in ANY national fraternity in the USA, let alone our local Pi. It appears our sons want to follow in their father's footsteps.

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President's Report (Continued)

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Physically, the house is continuing to transform from the initial refurbishments that were made possible through your financial support. Since moving back into the residence, the Alumni and Undergrads have teamed up to restore the look and safety of the house, including the basement where new Bilco and breaker-bar fire doors were installed. Heating, lighting and sound systems were upgraded as well. The pantry has been transformed through the purchase of industrial grade refrigerator and freezer units along with secure, individual room storage cages. But, the most amazing upgrade has been to the backyard. Do yourself a favor and stop by the house or go online to view the pictures at <http://www.applepi.org/photos.html>.

In the immediate future we are about to embark on our next major improvement project of re-pointing the house. This will include the replacement of the front porch, front door, external guttering, roofing, and sand stone restoration. Also, the entire concrete pad along the back side of the house will be jack hammered up and replaced. We are also in the planning stages of a phased carpet replacement in the Undergrads bedrooms. Next time you see Chuck Gunheim, make sure that you go up to him, shake his hand, and thank him for all the hours he has put into not only the initial house restoration but also the more recent backyard upgrade and the upcoming re-pointing project. The man has gone above and beyond the call of duty over the years and we owe him a ton of gratitude.

Longer term, in tandem with Drexel, we are in the early stages of evaluating the re-opening of the fourth floor. This will be an ambitious and very expensive goal to achieve. We are also looking to ways of providing increased capacity for the Undergrads as there exists quite a demand from the younger Junior Members wanting to live in the house. This is good news for us as it helps with cash flow and allows us to make the improvements at a faster rate.

So, what I do NOT want to see the Pi become is an Undergraduate population of 150 half committed knuckleheads whom know little or nothing about each other or the history of the Pi. The Alumni Exec and the Undergrads have collectively agreed that we will keep the maximum number of brothers to no more than around our current 71 headcount. We will accomplish this through a more selective rush and bid process. Also, I do NOT want our current gold standard relationship with Drexel to decline but rather improve with each successive generation. If that relationship suffers, we are at risk. At the end of the day, Drexel holds the key to our fate if we misstep in any way.

Also, I do NOT want to see the upward trending Alumni participation reverse downwards. I am genuinely encouraged by all the old and new younger faces that are showing up at our events. I have witnessed the Alumni Exec grow accordingly with the increased Alumni participation at our monthly meetings and the need for increased support of our new activities. As an example, Aaron Schuman has just stepped up and kicked-off the Alumni Engagement Committee to increase our involvement with the Undergrads and the newer graduates. These are all good signs that we are heading in the right direction and growing not only physically and financially stronger, but also in confidence and stature amongst the Greek community. This only happens through Alumni participation. With that, here are dates to mark in your calendar:

- | | |
|--|--|
| -15 Sep 2012, Alumni Golf Outing at Indian Creek | -12 Jan 2013, Alumni/UG Off-site Retreat |
| -13 Oct 2012, Alumni/UG Work Day at the house | - 26 Jan 2013, Alumni/UG Basketball |
| -10 Nov 2012, Alumni/UG Football | -02 Mar 2013, 78 th A-Ball at the house |
| -07 Dec 2012, APL Holiday Party at the house | |

Please log onto the Pi website www.applepi.org and update your contact details or use the enclosed envelope to mail in your update. Also, please reach out to guys from your era that have been out of touch and organize a group visit to the house. Alumni Meetings are held on the first Friday of every month at 7:00 PM EDT/EST in the West Parlor of the house, unless otherwise notified via e-mail. If possible, all local Alumni should physically attend at least one meeting per year.

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President's Report (Continued)

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I realize it is not possible for many of you to attend the meetings in person, so here is our teleconference dial in number and access code:

DEDICATED DIAL-IN NUMBER
1 (605) 715-4920
ACCESS CODE
695-5944

In closing, I want to thank everyone for their continued financial support. Dues are our lifeblood and make things like this Newsletter and social events possible. If you have not already done so, please log-on and pay using Pay-Pal or send in your dues (\$40) in the enclosed envelope.

Please enjoy the remainder of this Newsletter and feel free to contact me by phone on 215.896.3829 or by e-mail at edschicklingjr@comcast.net with any questions, concerns, ideas or suggestions on making the Pi even greater than we are currently!

Adolphus,
Ed (Schick) Schickling ('85)

Vice President's Report

It's been almost 10 years since I got back involved with the Pi. At the beginning, when we got together, it was just about saving our fraternity from extinction. Before we could save the fraternity, we had to save the Alumni and to begin building a positive relationship with Drexel. Over the next couple of years we accomplished our goals and so much more. We raised money to fix the house, the Alumni came together in grand fashion, a new brotherhood was established, Drexel became our partner, and we set our sights on the gold ring of moving back into the house. Much time has passed since we achieved those successes. During this time we have experienced the growing pains that any new organization might have. I see this period as a time when an organization learns its potential and its limits, when the reality of "what's next" can become your nemesis or your friend. This is when vision is needed, when you need to move forward, but the road isn't quite as clear as it had been.

When things are going well it is hard to envision how to make them better. I think that is where we are today. We have to answer questions like: how many brothers can we fit in the house? Should we buy more chairs for the dining room? Is it time to start replacing the rugs? Should we bust the Undergraduates stones because their grades slipped a little? How big should the Undergraduate brotherhood be? The way I see it, these are luxury problems. These are questions that are best answered by an active organization, both on the Alumni and Undergraduate level. So, to address the theme of this newsletter of what is my vision for the Pi, I had to look at where we came from first.

My vision for the Pi starts with maintaining dynamic organizations, both at the Alumni and Undergraduate level. As trusted servants, we need to bring energy, good judgment, and leadership to the tasks at hand. Our example should make other people want to join us, not shy away. We need to continue to attract new Alumni to bring new energy and new ideas to our efforts. For me, this is where everything starts. My vision is that of embracing new people with renewed energy. Those of us that have been here for a long time need to be replaced, or change our role. To me, this is how organizations stay relevant - new blood. For the Undergrads, the very nature of the school cycle allows roles to change. But for the Alumni it needs to be part of our goal.

In addition to my desire for ongoing renewal within our Alumni organization, I would be remiss if I didn't talk about my vision for the house. The backyard is a good example of how I'd like us to look at the future of our property. We had an okay backyard that needed some things fixed. Rather than just patch up the things, we decided to tear everything apart and start over.

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Vice President's Report (Continued)

(Continued from page 3)

Together with the Undergrads, we brainstormed ideas and came up with a plan that created the most usable and adaptable space, one that would serve the needs of our Undergrads for many decades to come. To say it another way, I hope that everything that we renew or repair is done with the intent of it lasting for the next 50 years. Our house has served us well for the past 75 + years and it deserves no less.

I would like to close by writing about the need for quality over quantity (except when it comes to cheap beer). There aren't many of us and personally I like it that way. We are all part of a special fraternity and we hold ourselves to our own standards, not anyone else's. My hope is that for years to come when some new Undergraduate receives a bid to become a Brother he knows that he is a lucky person. Not because we are a snobby fraternity, or the biggest fraternity, but because we are the best fraternity that Drexel has to offer.

Adolphus,
Chuck Gunheim ('82)

Athletic Chair

Alumni Volleyball

On Saturday, May 5th, 2012, outside the Daskalakis Athletic Center, the Undergraduates and Alumni faced off in the annual meeting of Alumni Volleyball. Though a small showing for the Alumni team, what we didn't have in numbers we made up for in quality of play. Playing three sets to 21, the Alumni began the assault on the Undergraduates early by beating them 21-15 in the first set. Playing with all heart, the Alumni showed that just as in all other sports, they can still best the young men of the Pi.

The second set would not prove to be as easy as the first, as the Undergraduates came out to an early lead of 8-1. The Alumni would come back with a run of their own, but the strong efforts of the forward players of the Undergraduates would prove to be overwhelming in this set with a score of 21-18. The final set would prove to be the closest of all. With both sides vying for pride, the teams admirably played with all the spirit expected from a "Pi Guy." Thanks to the noteworthy efforts of Alumni Dave "Shady" Florio, the Alumni volleyball team would prove to be too much for the outmatched Undergrads. In the end, the Alumni would prevail with a score of 21-19 after an amazing display of volleys from both sides.

Alumni Softball

Despite the lingering prospect of a rainy day, the Annual Alumni/Undergrad softball game took place at the Fairmount Fields. The day turned into a beautiful one. This year's annual installment of the game would see the unprecedented winning streak of the Alumni come to an end. Beginning with an abysmal turnout of the Alumni, barely being able to field a team, the game quickly spiraled out of control with poor defensive play and quiet bats from the Alumni. The game would end with a score of 12-2, with very few highlights coming from the Alumni. In past years, turnouts for the softball game have been resounding. This year did not follow suit. It is our sincere hope that you will join us next year and for other upcoming events to show your support for the Pi.

Upcoming Alumni Sporting Events

On Saturday, September 15, 2012, we will be holding the **Annual Alumni Golf Outing** to be held at the same location as last year's event, Indian Springs Golf Course in Marlton, New Jersey. Coordinating the day's events will be Alumnus Myron "Merv" Williams. If you should have any questions about the outing, feel free to contact either Myron at myron.e.williams@gmail.com or me at stephen.spadaro@gmail.com. Further details on the outing were sent in an e-mail in August.

On Saturday, November 10, 2012, **Alumni/Undergrad Football Classic** will be held at a location to be decided, so get ready to dust off those cleats and put the big tackle on the Undergrads. Beginning the 2013 athletic schedule will be **Alumni Hoops**, which will be held on January 26th, 2013, at noon in the Daskalakis Athletic Center. Following both events, we will meet back at the house for food and refreshments and, as always, a great time in the company of Brothers. It is our hope that you can make one or more of these events so, if you have a chance, please come out and support Alumni athletics.

Adolphus,
Stephen Spadaro ('05)

Corresponding Secretary Report

Greetings Brothers! It is my pleasure to give you the latest installment of the Alumni Newsletter. After much consideration and some persuasion, the newsletter was adapted from the standard old vintage feel to a more streamline modern theme. All of us have some great memories from the Pi of old, but our role now as Alumni is to build an organization that can withstand any changes that the future might bring.

That is why I choose the theme for this newsletter to ask the question, "Where do you see the Pi in 5, 10, 15 years down the road?" My personal goal for the Pi is to not only provide our Brothers the opportunities to be successful, but also give them a place to create memories that can be retold to the future Undergrads. At the backyard dedication, Chuck Gunheim made the speech where he said that the project was created to last "not 5 years down the road, but 50 years." From an organizational standpoint, I think every action we take should have that thought process in mind.

A note to the young Alumni, please make sure to forward all your mail when you move outside of the house. We have a ton of mail still being delivered to the house and I want to make sure you understand it is your responsibility to forward all mail.

Also, as I continue updating the newsletter, I would like to hear from you, the Alumni. If you have a new addition to the family, just got married, or were recently promoted., please contact me with this information, ezaremski@gmail.com. Our intent is to tie our Alumni community together by sharing more personalized information in future newsletters.

Adolphus,
Eric (Erk) Zaremski ('04)

Treasurer's Report

This is my first newsletter as Alumni Treasurer, so let me first give an introduction. My name is John McFadden and I pledged Alpha Pi Lambda in January of 1997. I held the following undergrad positions: Treasurer in the Fall of 1999 and then President in Spring /Summer of 2000. After these positions, I was elected Treasurer of IFC in the Fall of 2000 and then held that position up to my graduation in June of 2001. I was elected Alumni Treasurer this February 2012. I want to thank David Kaganovsky, not only for his hard work over the past two years as Treasurer, but for also taking the time to mentor me during the transition.

Overall, our daily financials are in a healthy state. We just completed the 2012 fiscal year and we operated in a slight profit which exceeded our 2012 goal/budget. The fiscal 2013 budget was submitted to the Executive Board and was approved at the Friday August 3 meeting. In order to meet these 2013 goals, we continue to need you to pay your dues of \$40. These dues can either be paid by check or by PayPal.

Finally, looking forward we still need significant help and donations to our Building Fund. As of today, we have approx \$110,000 in our Building Fund. As you have already read from both the President and Vice President, our goal over the next 12-18 months is to improve the structure of the House. However, we cannot complete these tasks without your help. Our major projects are the following: re-pointing the House, the front porch, external guttering, roofing, and sand stone restoration. We cannot complete these projects with only \$110,000 to date and we need your help!!! You can donate to the Alpha Pi Lambda Building Fund by either sending a check to the address below payable to Drexel and writing "Alpha Pi Lambda Building Fund" in the memo section or you can send a payment through our PayPal account and I can transfer this money over to the Building Fund. Also, please check to see if your company has a matching gift program. If they do, checks need to be made payable to Drexel with a note "APL Building Fund" on the memo line.

All Building Fund checks can be sent to:

Drexel University, Office of Institutional Advancement, 3141 Chestnut St, Suite 310, Philadelphia, PA 19104

All dues checks can be sent to the following address: *PO Box 8717, Philadelphia, PA 19101*

Our PayPal account is: *President@alphapi.org*

Adolphus,
John McFadden ('01)

Alumni Basketball Game



Alumni warming up for the whooping they were about to put on the Undergrads.



Give the Undergrads credit, at least they coordinated their outfits.

2012 Pig-Nic



Current Alpha Pi Alumnus and Judicial Chair, Pete Altavilla with his son, Anthony.



Past Alpha Pi Lambda sweethearts, Jen Lipski and Erika Schumann, enjoying the Fraternity's picnic.



The traditional Pig-Nic egg toss with Undergrads, Alumni, and families.

Backyard Dedication and Senior Sendoff



Chuck Gunheim gives a speech to dedicate the backyard to the “future brothers”.



Alumni, Undergrads, and family enjoy the new backyard by having a barbeque.



New Alumni Tim Wilwert and Brendan ‘Boomer’ Ward (left to right) pose in front of the Alpha Pi Lambda Letters. Boomer is a past president and Tim won brother of the year at this years A-ball.



Ed Schicking addresses the Undergrads and Alumni, both old and new, during the senior send-off.

Scholarship Fund

The Alpha Pi Lambda Endowed Scholarship Fund continues to grow with over \$32,000 in gifts and pledges. We have now reached the minimum funding threshold which will allow us to begin issuing annual scholarships to worthy Undergraduates beginning next year. I'd like to give special thanks to Mrs. Fay Krebs Donaldson, former Alpha Pi Lambda Sweetheart, and Ed Dolphin for their generous donations over the last six months.

For those of you who may have reservations about donating to the building fund, the Alpha Pi Lambda Endowed Scholarship Fund offers another way for you to contribute to the legacy of the Alpha Pi Lambda fraternity and to contribute to developing the uncommon man. Think of the possibilities when potential freshmen come to the house during rush and learn that they can compete for an Alpha Pi Lambda scholarship! As our Alumni prove time and time again, we always have and will continue to attract the best of Drexel. The establishment of a permanent scholarship dedicated to Alpha Pi Lambda Undergraduates will help us continue to raise the bar for new members.

If you would like to find out more about the Alpha Pi Lambda Endowed Scholarship Fund or are interested in making a donation, please contact Joe "Appy" Apostolico either through e-mail at joeileen@comcast.net or by phone at 1-267-230-4032.

In addition, donations can be made directly to Drexel's Office of Institutional Advancement by directing your donation to the *Alpha Pi Lambda Endowed Scholarship Fund*. Also, please check to see if your company has a matching gift program. If they do, checks need to be made payable to Drexel with a note "Alpha Pi Lambda Endowed Scholarship Fund" on the memo line. We look forward to providing further updates on our progress and in seeking your contributions.

Adolphus,
Joe "Appy" Apostolico ('84)

Historian Report

Dan "Boots" Bloodwell and Jim Kernicky sent some great pictures in from the 70's and 80's and Shams is, or soon will be, doing his usual great job of getting them posted for all to see on our website (www.applepi.org). Jim had some great pictures of an "egg drop" and Dan had some equally great pictures of Frank Rubinate. All pictures and memorabilia that you want to donate are always welcome.

I am currently on a committee with the Drexel Library Dean to establish a permanent and safe repository for Pi memorabilia. Kerry DiBlasio, Drexel Director of Development described it: "This idea grew out of recognition by the Drexel Inter-fraternity Alumni Association that artifacts representing the rich history of fraternities and sororities at Drexel are scattered among Alumni private collections or stored in Chapter House closets without the benefit of any professional preservation. Many of these items date back to the early 1900's and, in some cases, are the best records available to document student life at Drexel."

Danuta A. Nitecki ('71), Dean of Libraries, Tony Noce ('80), Pi Kap, John McGarrigle ('69/'72), Lambda Chi, and Jackie McClure ('87), Delta Zeta, have all been working on the project. You should have, or soon will, receive a notice from Drexel that will provide more information.

An item of major importance is that the Drexel archive project includes creation of a studio to record oral histories of fraternity life and events. This is a huge interesting way to preserve our history. This also reflects Drexel's commitment to documenting and preserving not only the Pi history, but also the contributions of the entire Greek community. More details will be in our next newsletter.

Best regards,
Joe "Peeps" McCaffrey ('69)
Home: 610.668.8736 or Cell: 610.453.0501

Undergraduate Relations Chair

Fellow Brothers, I hope you and your families are doing well and managing to stay cool in this year's hot summer weather. Earlier in May, when the weather wasn't quite so warm, I was able to attend the Backyard Dedication Ceremony along with many other Alumni. I completely agree with Chuck's idea of making changes to the house that will last 50 years instead of 5 years.

Before we think about doing too many more interior renovations to our historic house at 216 North 33rd Street, I feel that we need to make sure the house is impermeable to Mother Nature's aging forces. If not taken care of, small leaks in the house's brickwork can cause significant long-term damage. Internal water damage is costly to address and small leaks become larger leaks due to cold temperatures in the winter. While re-pointing the house will be an enormous project to undertake, the house will be better off if we do these repairs sooner rather than later.

We need a strong and active Alumni Corporation that continues to grow after every graduating class in order to be able to make repairs and renovations to the house that will stand the test of time. To the Class of 2012, we congratulate and warmly welcome you to The Alumni Corporation. Alpha Pi Lambda has existed for 77 years because of our, the Alumni, dedicated commitment to our Fraternity. I ask that you continue to be involved now in order to make sure that Alpha Pi Lambda continues to be an apex of Greek Life on Drexel's campus.

Most Fraternally Yours,
Ed Dolphin ('09)

Judicial Chair

"The Alpha Pi Lambda Fraternity builds by encouraging each and every brother to become an uncommon man." - 1935

Greetings, Brothers! I wish the very best to you and your families and look forward to seeing and speaking with many of you soon.

As discussed throughout this newsletter, in previous newsletters, and our web site, we have made and continue to make *tremendous strides* at an increasingly greater rate across a broad range of areas. The accomplishments that we have and continue to achieve are truly impressive.

Along with a request for your financial support, I strongly encourage you to physically come to our Alumni meetings at the Fraternity House when they are held and/or call in to the meeting and participate via teleconference to experience these accomplishments first hand. Come by and rekindle old friendships, make new ones, and meet the Undergraduates. They are a tremendous and talented group of solid young men. Working with them, hearing their thoughts and perspectives, and socializing with them is gratifying and fun.

In the last newsletter, we discussed the notion of the "uncommon man" and re-invigorated the idea that every *Alpha Pi Lambda Man* should strive to become one. We also said that not only is the notion of becoming an "uncommon man" a core value that was developed at our founding in 1935 but that it is also a powerful enabling idea for our future growth and success.

As Ed Schickling describes in his President's Report, the theme of this newsletter is "What do we want the Pi to be and what do we not want the Pi to be?" I add to that thought by saying that it is not merely a notion of "*what?*" but also "*how?*"

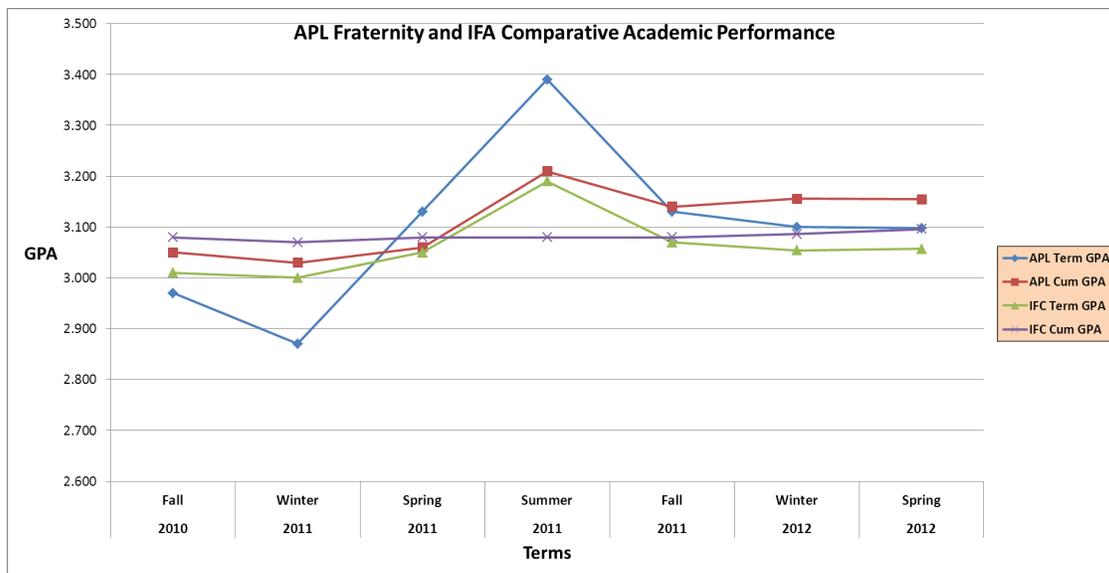
Previously, we describe the desired traits of the "Alpha Pi Lambda Man" and sought to differentiate him from the uncommon evil man or simply the mediocre man by defining the desired traits that he should possess. We said character, responsibility, accountability, vision, leadership, compassion, loyalty, insight, intelligence, wisdom, achievement, dedication to duty, sacrifice, selfless service, and the pursuit of excellence are all important.

Judicial Chair (Continued)

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We all know that the success of an organization is driven by the synergistic quality and commitment of its people. So, to build and shape our Fraternity in the manner intended, in concert with Drexel University, we need to attract, develop, and retain the best Undergraduate men possible to become “Alpha Pi Lambda Men”. So, with respect to the “How?”, what can we do and what are we doing to selectively attract, develop, and retain the talent that we seek and thereby shape the future of the Fraternity?

First, in the Fall of 2010, we placed a strong emphasis on academic achievement. We developed and implemented a policy that links and incentivizes academic success and good conduct to the rewards of occupancy in the APL Fraternity House. We regularly monitor academic performance and consult with and advise the Undergrad Executive Board to ensure they take effective action to help those that need help. As a result of these steps and others and as shown by the following graph, Alpha Pi Lambda has made a significant measureable improvement in academics. The actual APL performance is better than it appears since performance was driven down by a few individuals with very low term and cumulative GPAs that are facing academic dismissal or have already been dismissed. This profile is obviously better than a broader lower level of performance by the whole group. Their loss is unfortunate. Our obvious goal is help our Undergrad Brothers to succeed rather than fail.

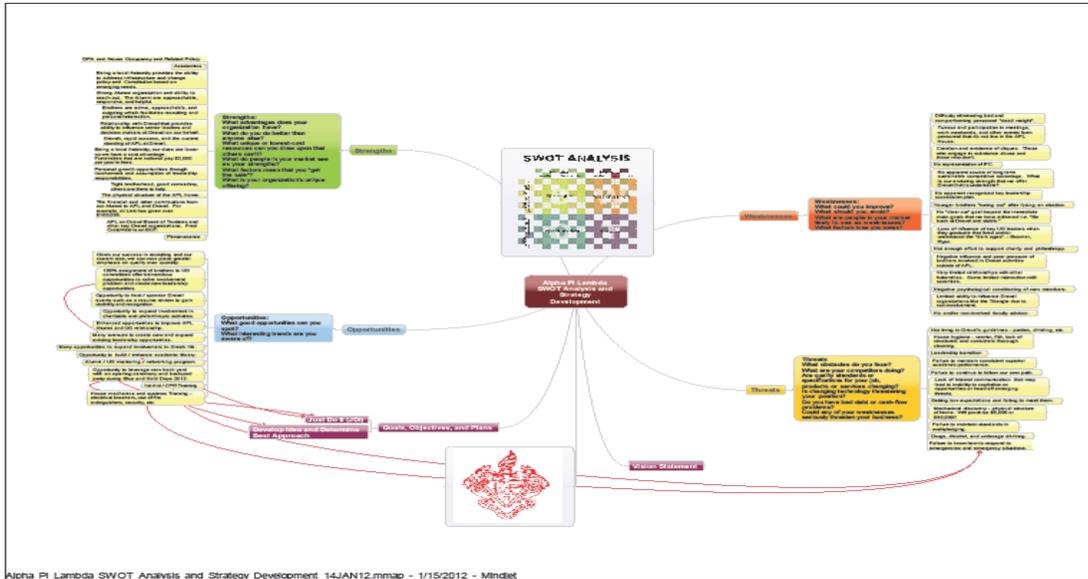


Second, over the last two years, we planned, developed, and conducted multiple Alumni and Undergrad Leadership and Management Development Off-Site Programs to help the Undergrads develop skills and techniques to identify problems and develop solutions. Following a morning session that focused on communications, group dynamics, and other key skills during our most recent program, we performed a deliberate exercise to help the Undergrads develop a structured “strategy map” to help them develop a framework to better lead and manage APL and thereby effectively shape the future of the Fraternity. As depicted in the figure below, we utilized a simple SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) Model as the principal underlying tool to the strategy map. (NOTE – The text is small and largely unreadable. The intent here is to briefly explain the process employed. The details on the problems identified and potential solutions developed cannot be effectively covered in this limited space.

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Judicial Chair (Continued)

(Continued from page 10)



Lastly, we are working with the Undergrads to enhance the Rush and Pledge Process. We intend to address this area in the coming weeks to help the Undergrads ensure an effective Fall Rush.

As discussed, we have made and continue to make *tremendous strides* at an increasingly greater rate across a broad range of areas. I encourage you to participate in any way possible and to come to our Alumni meetings at our beloved Fraternity House.

We need your help to shape the future of our Fraternity.

Adolphus,
Pete Altavilla ('83)

Undergraduate Report

As I enter my senior year at Drexel University, I can see my time as an Alpha Pi Lambda Undergrad coming to an end. Another observation that I have is seeing the future of Alpha Pi Lambda and how it keeps getting brighter and brighter. As one has conversations with recent graduates, the theme of “growth” and “how far we have come” seems to always come up. It makes one think about what the future holds in store for the Undergraduates, because there is still much to do. The Fall of 2012, the Alpha Pi Lambda house will hold 26 Pis, the most it has since we returned to the house in 2008. With the house being at capacity, people have begun asking questions about when the 4th floor of the house will re-open and how they cannot wait to come back when it eventually does get finished. With the new backyard recently completed, the Undergrads have a new excitement that projects will continue to happen and improve the already BEST house on Drexel’s campus. The opportunities are endless for Alpha Pi Lambda from here on out. I look forward to seeing the fraternity develop as a whole and what they can accomplish over the next decade.

Adolphus,
Robert Germinario, Undergraduate President ('13)

Pi on the Rise – Reflecting on the Last Five Years

The last five years have been anything but normal in just about every way. Across the world, we saw a financial crisis that wiped out dozens of companies and crippled the economies of many countries and regions. In the US, we saw large industries come to the brink of failure, requiring government intervention to survive (see Auto & Financial Bailouts). With all of this happening, there was one organization connecting all of us that did not require TARP, government intervention, or more regulation to survive: Alpha Pi Lambda.

As with the world, the last five years for the fraternity have not been normal. As an undergraduate five years ago, I remember the state of the fraternity in those days and now I see the incredible transformation the Pi has undergone. Unlike just about everything around us, the fraternity has been on a consistent positive trend poised for continued growth in the future. If the Pi was listed publically, it would be in a bull market right now.

Let's rewind to May 3rd 2007. This was the day I was initiated as a brother of Alpha Pi Lambda. Alongside me were the brothers at that time (a whopping dozen or so) and a class of 5 pledges. On the other side was a burgeoning group of ecstatic Alumni. Surrounding us was a fraternity house in disarray, requiring at least half a million dollars to become livable, among other hurdles. The cards were clearly stacked against us.

This group of Alumni led the charge to do the unthinkable – revive Alpha Pi Lambda. The group of brothers that stood around us that day led the growth of the undergraduate brotherhood – with no house, limited visibility in the Greek community and no guarantee to remain a local fraternity.

Five years later, May 3rd, 2012, I returned to the house but saw something completely different. Three and a half years earlier, a class of 20 brothers moved into the recently renovated fraternity house. We remain a local fraternity and one of the strongest on campus. We boast a brotherhood with more than 70 brothers and pledge classes consistently upwards of 20 people. To top it all off, the Alumni Corporation just finished an effort to renovate the backyard, putting in new sandstone, a resurfaced basketball court, gazebo, lighting, and fencing – an effort unmatched by its peers.

Compared to the auto industry, financial industry, and global economy, Alpha Pi Lambda is in a league of its own. As an Alumnus, I applaud the efforts of the brotherhood to build and maintain this progress and the Alumni whose involvement have made this explosive growth possible.

To tie the last five years together, the best thing to do is to step on the new basketball court and read the windbreaker banner. While we were founded more than 75 years ago, all of our efforts are dedicated to the future brothers of the Pi. Cheers to the last five years, the last 77 years and the coming years!

Shams Naim ('10)

