



# TAU KAPPA EPSILON

RHO CHAPTER



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

February 2008 Newsletter

## Letter from the President, Matt Brady

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Fraters, to start off with, I would like to apologize for the comments I made in the last newsletter prior to Homecoming in which I asked alumni to come to Morgantown and "...watch our soon to be BCS Champion Mountaineers take the field. I probably just jinxed us!" Apparently I did...Either Rich Rodriguez is to blame or I am for what happened during the game against Pitt, but I will leave the decision up to you.

With the Homecoming 2007 festivities and WVU football season behind us, it is now time to focus on what lies ahead this spring. We have two major events in which I hope everyone is able to participate:

- 1) Red Carnation Ball (RCB) to be held in Morgantown on April 19<sup>th</sup>
- 2) Rho Chapter Alumni Association officer elections

Both events are important RCAA traditions. The first being a time honored celebration of brotherhood and friendship, the second being a new ritual reflective of our commitment to Rho TKE. I strongly encourage every alumnus to take an active role in both by attending RCB and by running for an officer position to keep the momentum of our organization going.

As always I would like to highlight some of the key RCAA accomplishments since our last newsletter:

- Purchased a new 4'x 8' rush banner and a new BBQ grill for the chapter.
- Since April 2007 we have raised over \$3055.00 in scholarship funds for the chapter. (As a reminder, RCAA's fiscal year runs from April to April). Scholarships will be awarded to two deserving actives at RCB.
- Our Alumni Association Secretary, Scott Chatelain P.693, published a Rho Chapter Alumni Association (RCAA) [update article](#) in the Winter 2008 edition of the "The TKE" magazine published by TKE Nationals. Read the entire Winter 2008 edition [here](#).
- Mailed over 750 postcards to all known alumnus to help "reconnect" with those we have not heard from in a while. See a list of all [reconnected](#) alumni since the beginning of 2008.

Now that we are reaching out to so many alumni via our recent mailing, I would like to ask everyone to take a look at the [chapter history](#) we have compiled on our website and ask that you share the memories and knowledge you have of Rho TKE so that we can capture and learn about the rich history of our chapter. Please email any details you have the share to [alumni@rhotkealumni.org](mailto:alumni@rhotkealumni.org).

Yours in the Bond, Matt Brady, P.945

## Red Carnation Ball Alumni Event

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You are cordially invited to attend the Rho TKE Red Carnation Ball (RCB) taking place in Morgantown, WV April 19, 2008. For the past two years, the RCB has been a tremendous success with almost 200 guests, including ~40 Alumni from the 1960's through recent grads, active chapter members and their dates. This year's event we are shooting for over 250 participants. We're upstairs at Frater Justin Byer's "Da Lazy Lizard Lounge" on High Street for dinner, drinks, and dancing. The fun begins at 7:00pm.

Earlier in the day (1:00pm), we'll also conduct our semi-annual RCAA member meeting at the TKE house at 692 High Street. The meeting feature results of the RCAA Officer and Board of Advisors elections, an update on current RCAA events, house fundraising efforts, and "passing the gavel".

Cost for the RCB is \$50 per person (\$100 per couple) and includes dinner. Please pay before March 15, 2008 and make check payable to Tau Kappa Epsilon Rho Chapter and send to 692 High Street, Morgantown, WV 26505, attention: Chapter President Pat Curry.

There are a block of rooms at the Hotel Morgan being held at a "discount rate" under the group-name of Tau Kappa Epsilon. Contact Hotel Morgan at 304-292-8200. Alternatively, the newer Waterfront Place Hotel is close and has rooms at 866-782-9974.



## Recent Postcard and Response

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In January, the Rho Chapter Alumni Association's mailed more than 750 Post Cards to WVU TKE Alumni in an effort to connect with brothers without updated email address, and to validate the alumni database of mailing addresses. This was the RCAA's first large 'traditional mail' campaign since our inception in 2006. Most communication to date has been electronic via email and Web site.

The RCAA continues to look for different ways to reach out to ensure all brothers know that Rho Chapter has a functioning Association, and they have an opportunity to join and participate in Alumni events such as homecoming, RCB and other regional events. The recent mail campaign is one way to boost membership and participation.

If you have any contact information of any Frater who you have not seen at recent alumni events, please pass that information on to Scott Chatelain or Ben Peebles. We don't want anyone to miss out on all the fun!

## Update on Big-Little Brother Project

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Check the family tree on the [www.rhotkealumni.org](http://www.rhotkealumni.org) website. Alumnus Brandon Dudt-Mulzet (P1088) has been leading an effort to reconstruct family trees of big brothers and little brothers.

Brandon has made some incredible progress thanks to emails from Alumni. Three of the largest branches belong to John Baxter (1983 Betu-Nu transfer), Jeff Goldberg (P698), and Scott Martin (P825). But there are still many brothers without any family connections.

If you saved your pledge book, or even if you just remember who your big and little brother were, contact Frater [Dudt-Mulzet](mailto:Dudt-Mulzet) and help us connect Rho Chapter lineage

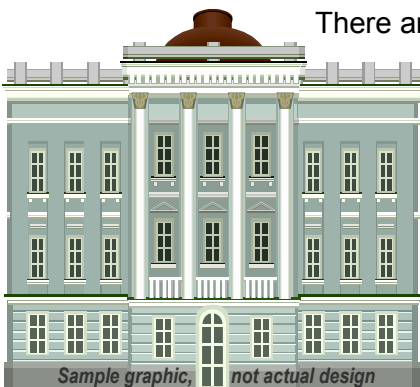
## Aggressive New House Initiative

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One of primary goals of RCAA is to provide a fraternity house that is a source of pride for the active TKE brothers and returning alumni, and a fitting facility to continue the traditions of Tau Kappa Epsilon on the WVU campus.

A percentage of all RCAA dues are dedicated to the housing fund, and special accounts have been set up for housing donations. The RCAA has used housing funds for house repairs and beautification. But if you've seen (or lived in) the TKE house at 692 High Street, you know that housing donations need to increase dramatically in order to provide a house that can be a source of pride for Rho TKE.

RCAA VP, Joe Janosik (P891), leads a new initiative with the goal of purchasing the current TKE house and its adjacent lot; tear it down to build a new, state-of-the-art facility on the site. The plan is to sell 'shares' in the new house to raise the \$1,000,000 to fund the project. Frater Janosik will deliver a proposal on the 'share' project at the Red Carnation Ball Alumni Meeting in April.



There are several ways you can support the project today; money, time, and experience.

- If you care to donate to the housing fund, go the [Dues and Donation](#) page of the RCAA website and donate via the secure PayPal method, or send a check to the address listed on that page.
- If you have experience with fund raising, or even if you don't, Frater Janosik and the RCAA could use your help in plan development and design. Contact [Joe Janosik](#) to learn how to get involved at the ground level of this initiative.

## Become an Officer or Board Member

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March 2008 we will begin the annual officer elections process. As well, several Board of Advisors seats are up for vote. We welcome alumni from every corner of the world to self-nominate for these positions – **distance is not a deterrent** – teleconference, Live Conference, and polling technology bridge the distance. Contact current RCAA president [Matt Brady](#) to self-nominate now. Look for upcoming emails in February calling for nominations and setting the deadline for nominations.

- Officer positions rotate every year and meet bi-weekly throughout the year via teleconference. Positions include: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Housing Chairman, Fundraising Chairman, Membership Chairman, Events Chairman, and Scholarship Chairman.
- Board of Advisors is a body of 30 alumni with three year term. Each year 1/3 of Board members roll-off. The RCAA plans to engage the Board more frequently to make critical RCAA decisions particularly around housing and fundraising. Online polling technology will be used to make many decisions.

## Alumni Dues Due in April

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Alumni Association annual dues are due in April of each year. Dues remain at \$20 in 2008, and are payable online on the [Dues and Donation](#) page of the RCAA website. Make payments using the secure PayPal method, or send a check to the address listed on that page. When paying dues, please also consider donating to one of the scholarship funds or the housing funds.

## Pictures of You

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Okay, in the mid-eighties, we tended to have puffier hair. It was cool at the time. There was the occasional mullet, but I believe most were aware, even then, that people would look-back on mullets unkindly. Check out the mullets and memories in the [Photo Album](#) on the RCAA site.

We have pictures and TKE composites from 1984 – 2007, and we're always adding new photos:

- If you have pictures or composites from your WVU days (especially pre-1984), please scan them and send to RCAA Secretary, [Scott Chatelain](#).
- Then and now. We're starting a new section of the album of to show pictures of brothers in their college days and today. If you want to be one of the first in this new section, then scan or send a picture then and now to Scott at the information above.



If scanning is not something you do, mail pictures to Scott at 1800 Sparrow Lane, Waxhaw NC 28173, and I'll scan and mail them back to you.

## Profile: Chuck Butt

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*Alpha-Psi 410. Active 1963 – 1966*

The recent postcard mailing reconnected us with Chuck Butt. Chuck pledged TKE at Davis and Elkins College in spring of 1963, scroll number: Alpha Psi 410. He transferred to WVU in his sophomore year, and lived at the WVU TKE house at 692 N. High from 1963 to 1966. AT WVU, Chuck went through the Air Force ROTC and dated at Gamma Phi Beta from Morgantown (TKE records show Chuck's wife as a Rho Chapter Sweetheart). They married and just celebrated their 41<sup>st</sup> anniversary in December 2007.



After WVU, Chuck went to pilot training then to Southeast Asia flying reconnaissance and refuelers. He got off active duty in December 1971 and returned to Morgantown, where he worked at First National Bank of Morgantown (now Huntington Bank). In 1984 Chuck and his wife moved to Fort Myers, FL, where they now reside.

His daughter attended Florida State (89-93) was also a Gamma Phi. She got her MBA at Univ. of Tampa. Chuck has been to two Gamma Phi Beta National Conventions with his wife and daughter; 1994 in Naples, FL and 1998 in New Port Beach, Calif. At the conferences, there were 750 women age 19 to 85, and him!

Now Chuck is a retired Air Force Major. He works full-time as a realtor in Bonita Springs, FL, and works part-time in the Golf Dept. with Bass Pro Shops.

Chuck was a member and President of the Rho Chapter Alumni Board from 1972 to 1980, and his father-in-law owned the TKE House at 692 N. High Street in the 1970s.

## Profile: Ryan Herr

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*P959. Active 1994 -1998*

Ryan Herr has recently moved to London, UK. In 2003 he completed an MBA at the University of Denver and set off to spend the next four years in Shanghai China.



While in Shanghai, he worked business projects ranging from retail chain store development to cross-border M&A. In London, he'll be working for a boutique finance group in the structured finance division. In his spare time, he jogs, plays squash, and helps with the development of the website new dating/activity website Meet2Go.com.

Ryan graduated in 1998 and his fondest memory is, oddly enough, pledging. During his final week of pledging, his pledge class cut out and enjoyed hot showers at the Days Inn, cold beer, and the accompaniment of a sorority. By cover of night, they fled the scene and thus borne "Unity in the Regal". Upon returning to the 309 Second Street, there was a severe "re-education session", but it was worth it.

## **Active Chapter Newsletter**

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Check your In-box for the active chapter newsletter coming in early February.