

ΦK MESSENGER

Alpha Chi Rho, Phi Kappa Chapter, 311. E. Armory Ave, Champaign Il, 61820
Illinicrows.com

A Note from the Alumni Board

By Hans-Peter Voss, AXP Graduate Board – Vice President,
Class of 1979, Jeff Dunning, AXP Graduate Board, President,
Class of 1995

In case you haven't heard, yes it is true, the Phi Kappa Crows are back for real and they are having a Homecoming celebration at the house to prove it. The Illinois Homecoming falls on Saturday, October 11th this year against Minnesota and should prove to be a victory for the surprise Illini. The Undergrads are anxious to show the returning alumni what they are all about. They would love to see as many alumni as possible. As a matter of fact, so would the Graduate Board. The Crow House that all the Brothers know and love at 311 E. Armory Ave. is the same great house with many years of history.

As of this writing, the chapter has 25 active brothers with 14 living in the house. The undergrads have a strong group of guys led by an energetic President, Brian Schmidt, an Aerospace Engineering major. A promising rush is currently underway. As far as the house itself is concerned, it is still hanging in there but it is in need of some repair. The Board has just initiated a new roof and window replacement effort with the new roof to be completed this fall. Last year, a new Champaign Fire Code abiding fire sprinkling system was installed. These projects are necessary to keep the house alive and kicking for many years to come.

Unfortunately, these improvement projects also come with a hefty price; the roof and window project exceeds \$100,000. We are in the process of securing a loan to pay for these projects.

With that said, this year's Homecoming celebration will kick off the "Crows are Back ". We would like to personally invite you to come back to the house for homecoming, meet the undergrads and check out the progress for yourself. Come and reminisce about the greatest time of your life, when you were a Phi Kappa Crow. Be a part of the Phi Kappa chapter's 90 plus year history.

Homecoming 2008

It is that time of year again, and the Crow house is hosting! The Alumni and undergrads are teaming up to make this the best Phi Kappa homecoming in many years. Get your friends together and head down to Champaign for a day of fun, food and football. **The pledge class with the most members present will win a special prize!**

The house will be open at 8:30am for pre-game coffee and doughnuts. The football game starts at 11am. If you haven't got tickets, come to the house and watch on the big screen. There will be food and drink before, during, and after the game, as well as games and activities for the whole family.

Please let us know as soon as possible if you will be able to attend by emailing or calling Sean Rohan (sgrohan@gmail.com or 847-347-1337). Include your Name, contact information, and class, as well as who will be attending with you. If you have any memories or traditions from Homecomings or years past that you would like to share, please pass those on as well. Even if you can't make it, we'd love to hear from you.

Continued on Back

A Message from the Chapter President

By Brian Schmidt, President

The 2008–2009 school year is shaping up to be Phi Kappa's most exciting since I joined in the fall of 2005. We have made many improvements to our house's interior and receive complements about how clean and refined we are every day. Everyone from potential new members to the milk delivery man are recognizing the hard work we have put in over the past couple of years. We look forward to this semester scholastically, as we have taken a lot of time in recent months to change our approach to scholarship and put Phi Kappa back at the top of the fraternity list. Phi Kappa is also proud to announce our first ever annual

scholarship for incoming freshmen who exhibit leadership and academic excellence. Hosting a scholarship, especially the interview process, has provided us with a spectacular opportunity to increase our exposure and expand our pool of potential new members. To give back to the community we have created a strong bond with the Thomas Paine Elementary School and we look forward to the community service opportunities the school provides us with every semester. We are proud of our efforts and thankful for the chance to make a difference. We look forward to continuing the Alpha Chi Rho tradition, and hope to see you all at homecoming.

Phi Kappa Wins Outstanding Executive Leadership Award

This August, Phi Kappa sent two undergraduate brothers, Jason Luksis and Jeremy Pacheco, to the National Conclave at Gettysburg College in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. At conclave, Phi Kappa received the Stanley G. Bedford Award for Most Outstanding Executive Leadership.

At last summer's conclave, the chapter was awarded The W. Henson Watchorn Award for "Most Improved Chapter". Cultivating a close relationship with nationals has been somewhat difficult since Phi Kappa is westernmost chapter of Alpha Chi Rho. As such, the undergraduate brothers are

proud of their collective achievements over the last few years, and encouraged by such high praise from the national organization.

Scholarship Award Winners

The Phi Kappa chapter is pleased to announce the winner of the Paul Ziegler Scholarship for Leadership and Academic Excellence. The Committee selected Terry Kowalski, an impressive young man from Orland Park, Illinois. The current chapter President, Brian Schmidt, was awarded the Richard V. Olsen Scholarship from the Alpha Chi Rho Educational Foundation at this summer's Conclave. Congratulations gentlemen!

Recruitment Update

As of this writing, the chapter has nine bids signed and returned, with 11 more distributed. As such, the recruitment outlook for this semester is very good. The creation of the scholarship provided the chapter with both a contact list and opportunities to meet incoming potentials in the summer--before fall recruitment began. Under circumstances less stressful than those in rush, brothers were able to get to know many of the applicants personally, a critical step in recruiting good men.

Recruitment Update con't

Since the beginning of rush, the chapter has had successful recruitment events including a dodgeball tournament, steak and cigar night, hotdog eating contest, and of course the trademark Car Bash. The brothers of Phi Kappa are looking forward to a strong fall postulant class!