

# ΦK MESSENGER

Alpha Chi Rho, Phi Kappa Chapter, 311. E. Armory Ave, Champaign Il, 61820  
[www.Illinicrows.com](http://www.Illinicrows.com)

## A Note from the Alumni Board

By Hans-Peter Voss, AXP Graduate Board – Vice President, Class of 1979, [PVOSS@allstate.com](mailto:PVOSS@allstate.com); Jeff Dunning, AXP Graduate Board, President, Class of 1995, [dunningjp@aol.com](mailto:dunningjp@aol.com).

Homecoming 2008 at the Crow House was one of the best in years. Except for the outcome of the Illini game with Juice giving it away, the undergrad Brothers threw a great bash, complete with all the essentials of good food, refreshments and good times. Since there was a ticket shortage, most Brothers watched the game on the widescreen at the Chapter House. The weather was beautiful, the French doors were wide open and the front lawn was filled to capacity with cars. About 25 alums stopped by for the festivities and enjoyed the camaraderie. It was really great to hear a lot of reminiscing of days of old from Griffer, Robby, LaPayne, Bluegill, Harless, Furrburger, Phish and Chappy, among others. The Classes of '76, '77 and '79 had 7 Brothers there alone. Thanks to Brother Todd Harris for his generous donation to help finance the celebration! Plans are already underway to make next year's Homecoming that much better. Save the date: October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009. We hope to see you there!



Homecoming 2008: This photo is of the stalwart alumni that stayed with the undergrads at the house into the evening. Thanks again for coming and enjoying a great time with us!

Another highlight from the Fall is that our classic Chapter House now has a new roof! The old leaky tiles are now history, and this new roof actually fends off rain. Whoa, what a concept! The house looks great. Along with our recent sprinkler installation, the new roof will help ensure that the Crows stay at 311 East Armory for the next century. The next item on the list of improvement projects will be replacing the old windows, many of which have become inoperable over the years. We would love to hear from any alumni Brothers who have experience and/or contacts in the window industry and who could assist us with the planning for this project.

For 2009, the undergrads have a strong year ahead of them with a strong group of men in the house and around campus. The current Exec Board, and particularly Chapter President Brian Schmidt, are an outstanding group of men who have continued to build on the foundation laid by the Rechartering group. The enthusiasm among the Brothers is rampant. The Crows are definitely back to stay! Stay tuned for more events and news, coming soon.

## Note from the Chapter President

By Brian Schmidt, Phi Kappa President, Class of 2009, [bschmid3@gmail.com](mailto:bschmid3@gmail.com).

The spring 2009 semester looks to be a very productive semester. With a new roof over our heads, an improved treasury system, eleven newly initiated brothers and more brothers living in the house than we have had in years, the Phi Kappa Crows are eager to use these improvements to make ourselves a stronger chapter and give back even more to the community. We are planning a large-scale philanthropy event for the Thomas Paine Elementary School, which will assist them in constructing a new sign for their complex this semester. Some of our goals this semester include strongly focusing on scholastic improvement, completing the planning for new windows to compliment the roof and exciting new opportunities for our alumni. This second half of the renovation of the Phi Kappa Chapter Hall will ensure the stability and security of our home for many years to come. We would also like to offer a special thanks to Brad LaPayne for his very hard work in helping us obtain the new roof. Keep on the

lookout for updates from the undergraduates for summer event plans as well as ongoing improvements to the chapter. We are looking forward to this new semester and hope that you pay us a visit and take a weekend to remember your college days in the Crow House.



Roof under construction: Phi Kappa is finally keeping dry!

## 2009 Alumni Dinner

By Joe Sheahan, Phi Kappa Alumni Chair, Class of 2009, sheahan2@gmail.com.

This year the Alumni of the Phi Kappa chapter can look forward to a catered alumni dinner on April 4th. Contact brothers from your class and come enjoy the company of old friends, reminisce about memories and traditions, or just enjoy good food. If you would like to partake please RSVP by email, a letter addressed to Joe Sheahan directed to the fraternity house, or by phone at 314-910-1431 and leaving a message by March 1st. The location will be at the Fraternity.

Also, if you have any stories from years past that you would like to share, please feel free to send an email to sheahan2@gmail.com. Even if you can't make it, we'd love to hear from you.

## Jeff Ake Fundraiser at Noodles

By Al Wolfe, Phi Kappa Philanthropy Chair, Class of 2010, awolfe3@illinois.edu.

Fall 2008 was a great success in regards to community service and philanthropy for the Fraternity as we completed nearly 300 hours of community service and philanthropy! A large portion of our house participated in a highway clean-up of our adopted portion of Green Street in Champaign. The Fraternity also co-hosted a philanthropy event with Noodles and Co. to support the Jeff Ake foundation for one of the University and Fraternities' alumni who has been missing in Iraq since 2005. Fraternity members helped spread the word out on campus and amongst the Greek community to attend the event at Noodles. We reminded them that a portion of the

profits made would be donated to the fund for his wife and children who have suffered greatly from the loss of their father and are unable to receive any benefits legally from his kidnapping.

This semester we are looking forward to continuing our participation in other philanthropies in the Greek community, as well as actively volunteering and trying to raise money for Thomas Paine Elementary School in Urbana. We will also continue to provide daycare for their monthly PTA meetings.

## Phi Kappa Membership Update

By Matt Kim, Phi Kappa Recruitment Chair, Class of 2012, mattkim1@illinois.edu.

As spring rush is around the corner, we strive to continue to build on to the brotherhood here at the Phi Kappa Chapter. This past semester we have grown to now be twenty-eight men strong. We had a successful fall recruitment and initiated a total of eleven freshman brothers.

We look forward to more success in recruiting men with the shared beliefs and values in search of a close brotherhood. We have started to make rough plans for rush events and potentials so that we will be prepared to get off to a fast start on spring recruitment when school starts again.

## 100th National Convention

By Joe Sheahan, Phi Kappa Alumni Chair, Class of 2009, sheahan2@gmail.com.

We would also like to remind all of you alumni that this July 23rd through 26th is the 100th National Convention. It will be held in Disney World and your family members are invited. The Phi Kappa Undergrads plan to have a strong presence at the Convention and we hope to see many of you there. This will be a spectacular opportunity to see friends and remember your Crow Spirit. Visit the Alpha Chi Rho headquarters' website, [www.alphachirho.org](http://www.alphachirho.org) for more information.

## Check Us Out!

By Brian Schmidt, Phi Kappa President, Class of 2009, bschmid3@gmail.com.

Take a minute to check out the Phi Kappa cafe press at <http://www.cafepress.com/illiniexp>. You will find lots of Phi Kappa memorabilia and the proceeds go to the Building Association. Please also visit <http://jeffake.com/> and help Phi Kappa help his family. We appreciate your support and hope to hear from you soon!