

Meet your...

The Boy from Illinois

By Mark O'Beirne
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¶ Mark O'Beirne, Chapter Consultant/Expansion Director. That is my title now, one that I didn't foresee when I began interviewing for jobs at the beginning of my senior year at the University of Illinois last fall, let alone when I began college four years ago. As a new era in my life begins, let me fill you in on the twenty-two plus previous years that led to my becoming a member of the National Staff.

I was born and raised in Galesburg, Illinois, a town that you probably aren't familiar with unless you're from Central Illinois. About 37,000 people live in Galesburg, a friendly little town whose most famous resident to-date was the poet, Carl Sandburg. My parents moved there after they were married in 1960, and it was in Galesburg that my two younger brothers and I were raised. My youngest brother is a sophomore at Illinois, and of course he is a Crow just initiated on May 1, 1987. The third of the O'Beirne brothers attends Illinois State University where he is a senior about to graduate in May.

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The majority of my pre-college days were spent with schoolwork and sports. Baseball and basketball were my two favorites as I grew up, and I ended up playing both all the way through high school. Today I enjoy playing or watching almost every sport, and over the years I have become somewhat of a sports trivia nut. I am a devoted Chicago Cub and Bear fan, and it comes as no surprise, I'm sure, that the Fighting Illini of

Illinois compose my favorite college teams. For those of you who are N.Y. Mets or Giants fans, I hope that we can find some other topic conversation when I make your acquaintance.

Upon my graduation from Galesburg Senior High School, I received many academic honors and subsequently enrolled at the University of Illinois. I originally entered the Chemical Engineering curriculum at the university, but that quickly changed and I became a Computer Science major at the close of my Freshman year. I would stick with this major through the rest of my undergraduate days. For those of you who are curious, I am still using my degree on the office computer, and I hope to go on to graduate work after my days as a Consultant are concluded.

Now as to how I became a Crow: Fraternities had always interested me, and therefore, I went through formal rush at Illinois in the fall of 1983, during my Freshman year. Although I had a tough time deciding which Fraternity to pledge (there are over 50 on campus), the Brothers of Alpha

Chi Rho's Phi Kappa Chapter stood out as the best to me. So I pledged and was Initiated on April 16, 1984.

I soon discovered that there was more to fraternal life than parties, and realizing this, I began to take a leadership role in my Chapter. I became Scholarship Chairman, Rush Chairman, Vice President, and finally President for the 1986-87 school year, my senior year. The benefits that I received from holding these



offices are immeasurable. Besides what I learned in the classroom, I consider the leadership and organizational experience I gained to be what I learned most from college.

There are a lot of pleasant memories that I have from my days as an undergraduate, seeing a lot of hard work pay off as both Rush Chairman and President, attending the 1985 Leadership/Scholarship Institute and Convention, and then receiving Phi Kappa's Undergraduate Brother of the Year Award for 1987. However, what meant the most to me was the friends that I made that I will have for the rest of my life. It is only now, after I have graduated, that I can see the true meaning of "Once an Alpha Chi Rho man, always an Alpha Chi Rho man."

When I graduated with honors this past May, it was difficult to leave behind what was a big part of my life. Now though, I have the pleasure of making many new friends and gaining new experiences as a Chapter Consultant. Exciting new challenges present themselves on the horizon as I travel across the country, and the period ahead is one that I eagerly look forward to. I pledge to do whatever I can to aid Alpha Chi Rho's Undergraduate Chapters. By working together with many other Brothers, I hope to be able to help Alpha Chi Rho grow and become stronger in the years ahead. ¶