



The Spy



Zeta Phi Chapter of Alpha Chi Rho ● Clarkson University

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Building Corp President's Report

Brothers,

I have to say, I'm very excited by the return of The Spy. As some of my classmates may tell you, I've been talking about bringing it back since I was elected Member at Large and finally, it has come to fruition. I want to thank the current members of the Alumni Board, especially Lance Pickup '88, for leading the charge on the return of The Spy. I am excited to reestablish a regular communication channel with the entirety of the brotherhood.

The past several years have been notably tough for our fraternity. University sanctions initially impacted our ability to recruit new members. As we worked ourselves away from those sanctions, a public health crisis, the likes of which have not been seen since Polio swept the nation before the Omega Epsilon years, shut down practically every traditional recruiting avenue that we've traveled throughout our Fraternity's history. Despite these challenges, I am happy to report that we are now seeing an improvement in recruitment numbers and have succeeded in building and maintaining a strong financial foundation for both the Zeta Phi Building Corporation and the Undergraduate Chapter.

As has been the case since the establishment of the Omega Epsilon chapter in 1954 and the Alpha Chi Rho charter in 1956, the backbone of our fraternity will be built upon consistent recruitment practices, support from

Alumni, and the strength of our Undergraduate and Graduate chapters. I thank each and every one of you for your contributions throughout the years and ask that you continue to support the chapter, even if it doesn't look the same as it did when you were at 77 Elm.

Regarding this publication, we would love to have contributions from the brotherhood as a whole. Please forward any news you wish to share to myself or Lance Pickup for inclusions in future editions of The Spy!

Finally, I'd be remiss if I failed to acknowledge Jim Dreyfuss (JD) for his many, many years spent serving our chapter. JD recently stepped down from his position as the President of the Zeta Phi Building Corp after serving on the board in some capacity for the better part of the last three decades. To put it simply, JD has left both the undergraduate chapter and the ZPBC in a better position than he found it in. Thank you, JD for your many contributions throughout the years and we all wish you the best in your future endeavors.

Fraternally yours,
Ken Gibson '13
Building Corporation President

Chapter President's Update

The brothers of the Zeta Phi Chapter of Alpha Chi Rho fraternity wanted to keep you all informed about the activities that we have been involved in recently. We are extremely proud of the progress we've made and what the future holds.

We received four new members in the fall, and six in the spring and look forward to their time and future accomplishments in the Chapter. Of our active brothers, one currently holds the Administrative Affairs position on

the Executive Board of the Interfraternal Council, which is the on-campus organization for all Greek Life here at Clarkson. He is responsible for recording the details and proceedings of each meeting, maintaining a permanent record of IFC minutes, and reporting the financial status of the IFC at each meeting. Members who go above and beyond help to provide a heavy influence in all of Greek Life decisions and discussions. Through the strong leadership and perseverance of these members, we hope

to ensure that all of Greek Life is favorably representing the University.

AXP places the community of Potsdam as one of our top priorities. Last fall, the Brothers of Alpha Chi Rho assisted the Riverside Cemetery in Hannawa Falls raking leaves for nearly 5 hours. This is an activity we've done for several years now. The relationship we have established with the owners of the cemetery and local residents has grown and will continue to for years to come. The chapter has also participated in our Adopt A Highway program within the Potsdam community to keep the roadways and surrounding areas clean. Our Chapter held a Thanksgiving dinner for our house mother Mary Marino, ensuring that we extend her our gratitude for the countless actions she's shown our Chapter throughout the years. In early fall, Mary was admitted into the hospital due to pneumonia. During this time, our chapter was fundraising for the Binhi Foundation, a nonprofit organization that sponsors cleft palate surgeries for Filipino children in need of it. After we sponsored one surgery, we decided as a house to donate the rest of the money we made through our annual popcorn fundraiser to go towards paying off Mary's hospital bills. Thanks to you, our friends, and alumni, we were able to raise and donate over \$2,400!

As many of you know, the COVID-19 pandemic is something we've all grown to accept and live through. Thanks to our Alumni board, we created a House Safety Plan and Task Force that met monthly to discuss New York State and Clarkson University safety guidelines, restrictions, and regulations to ensure the safety of the members of the Clarkson Community and Chapter. With that being said, after countless meetings, purchasing of disinfectants and PPE, and insanely generous alumni dedication and support, we have not supported any cases this semester! We cannot express how thankful we are to have this kind of support from our alumni so we can get back to a sense of normalcy per university guidelines which have allowed us to do more in person activities such as recruitment and philanthropy events.

For our efforts, the Brotherhood has earned an enormous amount of respect and gratitude from Clarkson, the community, and our national organization. We take a lot of pride in our accomplishments and will continue to do all we can for the improvement of our community. As you can tell, your sons are quite busy maintaining our Chapter and benefiting the community in a positive way. The friendships, memories, and lessons that each one of us have experienced is truly remarkable. The motto that we all

live by is "Be Men", and we strive to reflect that image through all actions.

Fraternally,
Joe Artini
Chapter President

Rush Chairman's Report

Rushing the past few semesters has turned out in favor for us. As mentioned in the President's report, we were able to welcome four new brothers in the Fall of '21 and six new brothers in the Spring of '22. For this I would like to thank our current brothers for the time and hard work put in. The house has been struggling with low numbers lately due to COVID and this was a whole hands on deck operation.

We have found that we were able to get the best turnouts when we hosted handball in Walker arena, when the weather does not allow us to do many activities outside. We all know how harsh Potsdam winter can be. We also see success in rushing when hosting barbecues and lawn games in our backyard when the weather allows us. This also allows them to see the chapter house also which is always a large selling point. We currently have a pool of eight rushes that we are maintaining contact with and hopefully will decide to join the brotherhood next Fall.

Fraternally yours,
Michael Crapser
Rush Chairman

Urinal Naming Rights Up For Grabs!

Dear Brothers,

It has been quite interesting financially these past five years! Starting off with sanctions imposed by Clarkson that restricted our ability to rush freshman (in addition to dwindling student population and general interest in Greek life), we were finally able to go full steam ahead with rush, and then the pandemic hit. As you can imagine, this slammed the brakes on our rushing efforts.

As a result, our membership and residency at the house have declined significantly. While we are making great progress in rebuilding our chapter rolls, the reality is that

we will likely be operating at a loss for the next couple of years until we can get more brothers living in the house.

Unfortunately maintenance needs did not take a break during COVID, and we have several urgent projects on our plate that come along with large expenditures.

Our top priority is the upstairs bathrooms. Not only have the bathrooms been in serious need of repair and renovation, there have been leaks that continue to happen from the bathroom that need to be addressed.

Our plan (which has been set in motion already) is to completely renovate the red bathroom, taking it down to the studs and removing all the fixtures. Both bathrooms will be completely replumbed from that side, and new showers, sinks and toilets installed, as well as a tile floor with a drain in it. This will be a huge improvement and will hopefully encourage rushes and brothers to want to live in the house. The other bathroom will receive new showers and fixtures at a later time.

Taking on a capital project such as this while operating at a loss is not something we relish doing, but with all the deferred maintenance projects, we feel we have no choice. That is why I am asking you now if you would consider donating to our capital fund. Our budget for this project alone is \$16,000, but we have other projects lined up including redoing the basement ceiling, completing the renovation of the other bathroom, and rebuilding the back deck that need attention. Our goal is to raise \$25,000 for these much needed projects. Will you help us reach that goal?

If you are interested in helping out the chapter on a recurring basis, I would encourage you to consider a recurring monthly donation. There are a few alumni who choose to give this way and it is a quick and easy way to make your contribution in small increments. I would really like to see an increase in alumni utilizing this method as it does help to provide a consistent cash flow.

I hope the chapter can count on your help. Please visit our donations page for more information:
<http://blog.axpzetaphi.org/index.php/donations/>

Fraternally yours,
Lance Pickup '88
Alumni & Chapter Relations Chairman

Zeta Phi Building Corporation

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Annual Meeting to be held July 16

We are pleased to return to an in person annual meeting to be held during Clarkson's Alumni Weekend on Saturday, July 16 at 10:00am, followed by a picnic lunch afterwards. We would love to have you join us in person at the chapter house for our meeting, see what's new, meet fellow alumni and current members, get caught up on happenings, as well as discuss future plans.

And of course, one of the key orders of business is electing officers and directors for upcoming terms. We have operated for the past year with a vacancy in our Treasurer position, which obviously is not a great thing. Past Treasurer and current President Ken Gibson has done double duty this past year, but this is far from ideal. We also have a number of other vacancies that really need to be filled.

Brothers, I cannot stress this enough: **We need your help to keep this chapter and our alumni community running strong.** This is not a huge time commitment, but we are in desperate need of brothers that are willing to pitch in and help conduct the business of the Building Corp, as well as to mentor and guide the undergrads to build and maintain the best house at Clarkson.

I know that we are all busy with our families and work, but I also know we have a huge pool of talent, with over 1,000 alumni to draw from. Can I count on you to seriously consider offering a few hours of your time each month to serve your chapter?

I think about all the benefits and opportunities AXP has given me. Even my own position on the Building Corp has helped me get my current site manager position. In addition, I get to work with some amazing young men that are themselves working hard to keep the chapter strong while staying on top of their academics.

If you would like more information on what is involved, or would like to nominate yourself or another brother for a position on the board, please reach out. I have faith that this awesome brotherhood we are part of will come through and contribute our time and talent.

Fraternally yours,
Lance Pickup '88
Building Corp Secretary

Alumni News

We look forward to sharing your news and updates in this section in future editions of The Spy! Marriage? Kids? Big promotion or new job? Moving to a different area and interested to see if there are any alumni in your area? This is the place to share it.

To kick things off, I'll start out with a brief summary of the last 34 years or so of my life! I met my wife of 29 years at Rich Kumpitsch's ('88) wedding. Originally residing in Burlington, VT, we moved to Raleigh, NC in 2006. We have two sons Alec (28) and Collin (27). I worked at IBM for 25 years and am now the NC Design Center manager for ASIC North, a chip design services company based in Vermont. You can reach me at lpickup45@gmail.com.

This past fall, I joined a group of brothers that graduated in the 1988-89 timeframe for a lackluster performance of the Bills against the Jags in Jacksonville. Next season we'll have to hit up somewhere that's warmer than Jacksonville—maybe Chicago in December.



Kudos to Dan Kish '88 for filling in as Master of Ceremonies in place of organizer Bob Moore '88 who was AWOL for the event! It was a great weekend, picking up right where we left off as we left Potsdam so many years ago.

Share your story! Send your update to secretary@axpzetaphi.org for inclusion in a future edition of The Spy!