

Newsletter
April 2007

The Alpha Nu's



“The report of my death was an exaggeration.” *Mark Twain 1897*

Exactly one year ago this quote appeared above our first newsletter in over two years. It first applied to the Alumni Association and its apparent demise and timely comeback. We are happy to report that this quote also applies to the Active Chapter; once on the brink of folding, they now appear to be headed towards a new beginning. Paul McGie and Charles Zuluaga have done an exceptional job at holding things together and pulling off a successful winter rush that added three new members and a new sense of enthusiasm. With much help from Jeff Reiser, the Active Chapter seems bound for a comeback. Indeed the Actives have been very busy this year, including a trip to New Orleans with Habitat for Humanity to help rebuild homes and dreams. There is still much work to be done and the number of actives definitely needs to grow. But we think the right people are in place to do the job and bring Alpha back to its prime. While they are a small group, they have already earned the respect of students both Greek and non-Greek, administration, faculty and Alpha alumni.

Again, much thanks goes to Jeff Reiser, who has risen to the task of Alumni President and provided much needed support, guidance and the occasional well placed boot in the butt. But it couldn't have been done without the enthusiasm and brotherhood of Paul McGie and Charles Zuluaga who really pulled together to keep Alpha alive.

Thanks gentlemen!



REQUEST for DUES

As always here is the request for dues. Dues are what drive the engine of Alpha scholarships. We are an organization that prides itself and is indeed based on contributing to the education of our Active Brothers. We have a rich history surrounding our scholarships honoring great Alphas such as John L. Banks, Brooks Knodt and Butch Orrick. We remember our fallen brothers for their dedication to Alpha Nu Omega and for the brotherhood they exemplified. Please be generous. Your donations are also tax deductible.

Name _____

Annual Dues: (\$30.00 General Fund Administration) \$ 30.00

2007

Scholarship Donation: (We have 2 options. The first option puts your donation directly into the **Permanent (Endowment) Fund** (interest only will be used for scholarships) - the second is a direct contribution solely to the upcoming year's scholarships)

Mail dues/donations to:

John Erickson, Treasurer
920 Felti Court, # 212
Hopkins MN 55343

Option A \$ _____

Permanent Fund

Option B \$ _____

Current Year's Scholarship

Technology Fund Donation: (Directly for technology project \$ _____

development- Web page, Historic CD and Video)

Total \$ _____



The Actives go to New Orleans with Habitat for Humanity

Face to face with the aftermath of one of the largest natural disasters in the history of the United States, our eyes were opened and our minds were forever changed. We had witnessed the insufficient living conditions and economic instability of New Orleans due to Hurricane Katrina.

Cars rusting, wood rotting, and home appliances along with other debris were sitting amidst neighborhoods. Materials such as home furniture lay upon the roofs after the water level rose and then receded. The houses were discolored and stained with the faint yellow watermark line. House windows shattered and homes in disarray, the people of New Orleans needed our help. The sympathy has always been there, but as the famous quote goes: "You got to see it to believe it"; and being able to see the destruction our hearts felt more connected to the people living under these circumstances without a house or not much of one left.

One image, which enlightened all of us, was the deserted Six Flags Theme Park. The image showed how the economy has struggled. Businesses have moved out of the city; Six Flags moved out because the insurance money collected was more financially plausible than reconstructing and refurnishing the damaged theme park. Images like Six Flags captivate the economic struggle in certain areas of New Orleans after the hurricane. In addition, the image portrays the struggle between enjoyment and the ability of the city to pick up where it left off.

Seeing these images every day, the five of us worked hard doing multiple jobs on multiple homes. The five Alpha Nu Omega volunteers were Chris Perner, Charles Zuluaga, Tom Kreuser, Bruce Reagan and Paul McGie. Working on several sites, our jobs included building bases with cement and block, roofing, painting, detailing, stripping damaged houses, framework, and so on. Our workday consisted of waking up at 6:00 in the morning and eating breakfast, catching the bus at 6:30 a.m., arriving at the work site at approximately 7:00 a.m. and leaving around 4:00 p.m. We would then catch the bus and rendezvous at Camp Hope, our home for the week, anticipating our dinner at 6:00.

New Orleans exposed us to a world in need of help and created a bond amongst fraternity brothers. Thankfully due to the help of the American Refugee Committee, Nick Schmidt, and the alumni of Alpha Nu Omega, the trip was made possible, creating lifelong lessons for the participating actives of Alpha Nu Omega.

Paul McGie

And Now a Word From Our President...

Greetings, Alumni of ANO!

As the current President of the Alumni Association, it is my pleasure to inform all of you about the current status of the AC and AA. First, your Board of Directors has been working diligently to assess and determine our long-range goals as an AC and AA. As some of you know, the AC was in a bit of a bind at the start of the current school year with only two members. To their credit and their desire to see ANO continue to prosper, they added three eager actives to their ranks. I am very proud to report that, though they are only 5 members strong, they are committed to the values, traditions and brotherhood of ANO. All five of them spent seven days in New Orleans volunteering for Habitat for Humanity where they helped build two homes. ANO was the largest group of volunteers from any fraternity at UMD. As I stated earlier, your Board is working very hard, meeting on a monthly basis at HealthPartners in Bloomington (thank you to Scott Schnuckle). My number one goal this past year has been to encourage more communication among us, so we all have a better understanding of who we are, where we are going, and how we are going to get there. Everyone is welcome to participate either in person or via email and give his input to benefit all of us. A schedule of meeting dates is in the Nu's letter. Second, we had a great turnout for our Annual Meeting this past fall at UMD. It is our intention to wrap the meeting around a Bulldog Hockey game from now on. Yes, we are a hockey school, so plan on attending in the future. Third, the venue for the Les McKeen Golf outing has been changed. It will be at Purple Hawk in Cambridge this year on the second Sunday in June. Look for more details in the next Nu's Letter and sign up early. Fourth, it is time to begin thinking about the 50th Reunion in September of 2009. Our goal is to get everyone there and make this the Bash of all Bashes. Lastly, I want to thank everyone who has been giving their precious time and working so hard for the Fraternity. It has been very encouraging to talk with Alumni I've never met (across all of the generations) and witness so much desire by all to see ANO continue to grow and become the best organization on campus.

Thank you for your time.

Fraternally, Jeff Reiser

The John L. Banks Memorial Scholarship

This year's John L. Banks memorial Scholarship has been awarded to Paul McGie in the amount of \$2000 for his outstanding contributions to the active chapter, his leadership in a time of crisis and his demonstration of brotherhood. Congratulations, Paul, for a job well done!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring Meeting!!

**Saturday, April 28th
9:00am to Noon
Carlson School of
Management
Room 1-127
Lunch to follow at Sgt.
Preston's**

UMD at Mill City

Formerly the Summit Event

**Friday, April 27th 5:30 - 8:00 PM
Mill City Museum- located in the Minneapolis
Riverfront District
Enjoy UMD jazz, complimentary hors d'oeuvres &
beverages, and the latest news about what's
happening at UMD!
For more information call the Alumni Association
at 866-726-7110 or e-mail at alumni@d.umd.edu**

Les McKeen Golf Tournament

**Sunday, June 10th
8:30am
Purple Hawk Golf Course, Cambridge
More information to come: Stay tuned!**



If you are receiving this newsletter by snail mail -- the postal service -- we have an easier and faster way to get your latest Alpha Nu's. E-mail! That's right- we can send your copy directly to your inbox. We won't sell your address to Nigerian government officials who want to share \$20 million dollars if you'll only give them your bank account number. " But I like having something to hold and read," you say.... All you have to do is hit the 'print' button and voilà! You have your very own copy. And, it seriously cuts down on our mailing costs, enabling larger scholarships. So please! Send your e-mail address to Hans Tronnes at **tronnes@consultant.com** as well as any new phone numbers or home address information. You'll be glad you did!

Let's make this newsletter rock!!

In previous newsletters we have profiled Alpha Nu Alumni who have shown exemplary character and those who have led extraordinary lives. We would like to revive that tradition by sending out a request for stories about your fellow brothers, who you feel deserve to be recognized for their leadership, friendship and brotherhood. If you know of anyone -- please feel free to write their story and submit it to Al Michaud at **almichaud@comcast.net**, and we will present it in the next newsletter. We can include pictures as well!

I would also like to revive the tradition of submitting updates from Alphas who have moved, married, changed careers, or just want to pass us a note saying "Hey! I'm still out here." We are really trying to reconnect everyone and bring us all closer together. I know this has been abused in the past, but I really want to keep this respectful.

And we still welcome any business solicitation that you want to offer. We feel that it is important to support our fellow brothers in friendship and in business. So please, send us your ads, marketing material, scanned business cards and we'll include them.

And if you have any suggestions for future newsletters, like getting them out in a more timely fashion, let us know!

Al Michaud, secretary