

the scarlet zete

Delta Chapter of Zeta Psi at Rutgers University | Winter 2020-21



In Flanders Fields
John McCrae

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.



GOING DIGITAL

As we look at ways to make the operations of our chapter more efficient and agile, we've made an incredible effort to build up our digital space. Here are just some of the ways we've done that:

SCARLET ZETE Moving forward, our *Scarlet Zete* mailings will strictly be distributed online via our new eNewsletter platform, just like we've been doing for the past three years. If you have not been receiving these, **please send your email to zetapsi.deltachapter@gmail.com** and we'll get you on board! If you don't have email, get in touch with us and we'll find a way to print and get them to you.

TRUSTEE MEETINGS Typically done in person or over the phone, **we've moved our monthly meetings to Zoom** so we have a better way to communicate, share, and deliver on the needs of our active brothers and alumni.

UNDERGRADUATE WEBSITE We're back on campus and there's no better way to promote ourselves to prospective brothers than a website to tell them all about the Delta Chapter. We share with them our history, some of Zeta Psi's most successful alumni, a video tour of the house, the

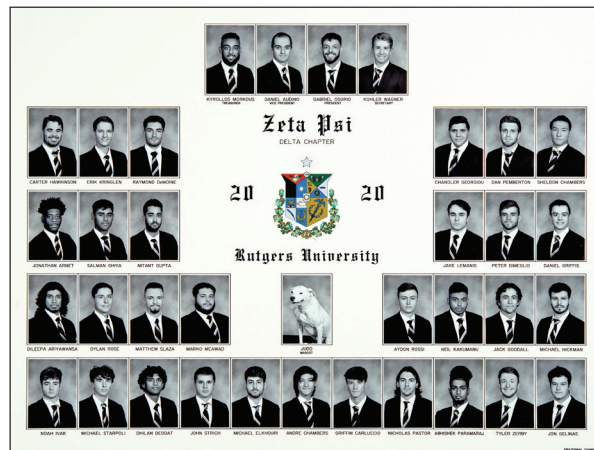
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Brotherhood Continues to Grow Stronger

Gabe Osorio | Past Active Phi

My presidency was a great learning and bonding experience with my brothers. At first, it felt very overwhelming but it really showed me how much we could accomplish as a group of young men with one goal in mind: to reestablish a great fraternity with a strong brotherhood, and have a hell of a good time doing it.

When I began college, I never thought I'd be in a fraternity, but when I was given the chance to found this fraternity with some of my good friends, I took it as a challenge and never looked back. Joining this fraternity has truly proven to be one of the best decisions I've ever made. Seeing how much the fraternity has grown since



Our first composite in six years.

we started has been an amazing experience, and I'm so happy that the brotherhood is getting stronger and stronger over time.

Internal Improvements During COVID-19

Matthew Slaza | Current Active Phi

Although I never imagined leading this group of men during COVID-19, it has been a valuable experience both for myself and the actives. After Gabe laid the foundation for this organization, my initial goal was to externally improve our organization in relations with the university and elders.

Given the virus and its impact on society, we decided on a different approach and are centralizing our efforts to improve internally by redesigning the basement with a new brothers' lounge and weight

room, creating a rush video for the house that can be used for years to come, and planning to create improvements that will impact future actives for the coming years.

Despite how hectic it has been running a social organization during a time where social gatherings are dangerous to yourself and those around you, it has been an experience I will never forget. This brotherhood has meant the world to me in these short years and having had a large impact in bringing back a fraternity to a place I can call home is surreal, as I now have brothers for life.



2019 Zeta Psi Baltimore Convention. From left to right: (standing) Deepan Patel '20, Chandler Georgiou '20, Jake Lemanis '21, Carter Hawkinson '20, Gabe Osorio '21; (kneeling) Frank Dileo, Michael Chalhoub.



2019 Zeta Psi Baltimore Convention. From left to right: Carter Hawkinson '20, Jake Lemanis '21, Chandler Georgiou '20, Frank Dileo '00, Michael Chalhoub '03, Gabe Osorio '21, and Deepan Patel '20.



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Remembering and Giving Back

A little over 48 years ago from this past October, thanks to the urging of my high school friend Pete McCormick '76, I walked into the house at 18 College Ave. for the first time as a very skeptical freshman. Due to the anti-establishment atmosphere on campus and the belief that fraternities were for rich kids and dumb jocks, I was predisposed to thinking, "This is not for me." As it turned out, the prevailing stereotype of Greek life was 180 degrees from what I experienced as I got to know the brothers, and later, my fellow pledges. In fact, my first important life's lesson at Rutgers was to keep an open mind and resist the temptation to take the opinions of a few cynical upperclassmen as gospel. It turned out the Delta brotherhood was far more diverse and interesting than the residents of the fifth floor of Clothier or any other dorm (and most fraternities) on campus.

By the time I left that first rush party, I was convinced that life at Rutgers could be a lot more fulfilling than if I chose to remain "Student No. 622446"—the identity the university bestowed upon me at orientation. My instincts were right. The next three and a half years, while academically challenging, were packed with memorable shared experiences with my brothers. Little did I know my life as a Delta Zete beyond college would be radically altered for the better from what it might have been had I bought into the anti-fraternity myth and remained just another number.

Now, I'll ask you to pause for a few moments to think about your Delta undergraduate experience and the many years following as an alumnus. Ask yourself:

Would your personal and career relationships be the same had you not stepped into the Circle?

Who are your oldest and closest friends, and how many of them shared your Delta experience?

Are the words Tolerance, Respect, and Humility just words to you? Or are they the cornerstones of how you conduct yourself in society?

I've asked myself these questions often over the years—particularly when life has thrown me some curveballs. As you consider these questions, I'm guessing your answers will be pretty similar to mine.

Fast-forward to the present. After six years of generous contributions of time, energy, and donations from many individual alumni, we have an undergraduate Delta Chapter with 15 active brothers living in the house and another nine actives living off-campus or attending classes remotely. The physical condition of the house is as good as, or better than,

it's been for decades. Virtual rush has been conducted to recruit the next class of prospective Delta Zetes, and plans are being made to expand recruiting activities throughout the remainder of the academic year. Mind you, this is despite the draconian measures taken by Rutgers and the state of New Jersey to deal with the COVID pandemic following on the heels of a doubling of our city tax bill to over \$40,000! Talk about life throwing some curves!

When campus life returns to some level of normalcy and you get the chance to meet these young men, I guarantee you will feel some of the pride you felt back in the day as you reflect on the accomplishments of your own undergrad brotherhood. And though our 2020-21 budget has been severely impacted by the lower-than-normal occupancy of the house, all of us on the Board of Trustees are committed to doubling down on our bet that the Delta Chapter of Zeta Psi will stand on The Banks for another 172 years. In the past few months, we have brainstormed and executed tactical plans to cut costs while simultaneously doing what we could to help undergrads with financial difficulties to continue residence at the house. We are currently planning to leverage the multi-million dollar value of our property to take advantage of the lowest interest rates in our lifetimes to further reduce costs and raise some of the funds needed to fill the temporary budget gap.

All of us on the board, along with many of our generous brothers, have given what we can and will continue to do so. Why?

Because Delta helped make us who we are, and we want to give something back. The legacy we're helping to nurture behind those six majestic columns will be hundreds of young men yet to walk through the front door for the first time, who will someday look back on life as a Delta Zete, as we've all done, with gratitude and pride in the brothers who came before them.

We ask you to join us. Remember—and give back what you can to help support this legacy. Please go to <https://chip-in.us/deltazete> to make a one-time donation. If money is tight, please consider setting up a modest recurring contribution that you can afford. And please feel free to call or email me or any of our fellow trustees any time if you have questions or concerns about the Delta Chapter.

In TKPhi,
Tony Ventre '76



(Left to right) Bob Volosin '76, Zeta Psi Executive Director Tyler Boisvert, Mike Chalhoub '03, Frank Dileo '00, Tim Little '78, and Mike Zevits '83.

Going Digital

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importance of philanthropy, a photo gallery, and, most importantly, how to rush! **Take a look at zetapsirutgers.com.**

ALUMNI WEBSITE The needs of an undergrad brother and an alumnus are two different things and we recognize that, so we built another site to be your "one stop shop" to find what you need

for all things Delta Chapter post-graduation. Here you will find a schedule of events that we have planned, some old photos to look back on (including composites), a page to honor some of our great Delta Zetes, ways you can get involved, your current trustees, and how you can give back. **Take a look at zetapsidelta.org.**

In TKPhi,
Michael Chalhoub '03

President's Message

Brothers: I hope this message finds you and your loved ones doing well in these uncertain times. I would like to give everyone an update on at 18 College Ave. As I'm sure you are aware, we started the "New Era" of Delta in the fall of '18, with first initiations scheduled for November 2018. However, due to some problems (not Delta's fault), initiations took place March 31, 2019. We Initiated 17 new brothers that day. In November 2019, we Initiated 10 more. Our new brothers have taken pride in the house, and have worked toward an even larger pledge class for spring '20. Rush started out well, and as February '20 rolled around, we had 23 leases signed, with the possibility of three more. Things finally started looking up. Then ... COVID hit.

On March 10, 2020, Rutgers shut everything down (two days before spring break), which started a downhill slide, as we returned three months' worth of rent checks to 18 brothers. As time went on, parents started calling to cancel their sons' leases. Once Rutgers announced ALL classes would be virtual, we lost all but 13 tenants. When your break-even point for the budget is 25, that puts a dent into everything. Over the last nine months we have been struggling financially. We were able to push back our mortgage payments until October. Of course, New Brunswick wasn't going to let anyone slide on property taxes (understandable), but the May and August bills were met with late charges. We have worked on reducing the budget. We have eliminated cable, as a majority now use a Fire TV Stick or Roku, and no one seems to have a problem with it, dropping our cable/modem bill from \$1,300 to \$600 per month. We are also in the process of eliminating Elevate and going all digital. And donations now come directly to us, and we are no longer paying the \$1,500 annual fees. We are working to reduce other charges as well.

Over the summer, Michael Chalhoub '03 and I were on Zoom calls with Rutgers OFSA, along with all fraternity and sorority alumni and the Middlesex County Health Dept. Delta has followed all CDC



guidelines, including having the house electrostatically cleaned. All common areas were cleaned and disinfected per CDC guidelines. Hand sanitizer, bleach, wipes, and face masks are well stocked. We had to make provisions for anyone testing positive. We have N95 masks at the house and everyone knows how to manage this. House brothers are tested weekly by Rutgers.

Time for some GOOD news ... the Board of Trustees has been meeting every week since the beginning of the school year via Zoom to address any concerns/issues that may come up. All rush events are now virtual. The brothers have put a weight room in the basement and a brothers lounge, complete with couches and three TVs.

I want to take a minute to thank the Board of Trustees (current and former over the past four years) for everything they have done to keep the ship afloat. I also want to take this time to thank everyone who has made a financial donation to this point, and hope others find a way to help during these uncertain times.

I hope you all have a very happy and healthy new year. Let's hope 2021 is better for everyone than 2020 was.

In TKPhi,
Frank Dileo '00

Young Alumni Participation is Key

Each fall, a new generation of students descends "On the Banks" as part of the odyssey that is higher education. Like those who came before, those after, and those still to enter, the odyssey is both deeply personal and collective. This is generally true for Rutgers students, and more specifically true for Delta Chapter brothers.

Each generation of brothers to enter 18 College Ave. has had different experiences dictated by the times in which they lived, whether the Vietnam War, September 11, the Great Recession, or now, a global pandemic. But those experiences do not fully define us as brothers. Rather, it is the house, the traditions, the stories, shenanigans, and so much more that unites us as brothers across generations.

The Delta Chapter continually requires new blood for the brotherhood to continue. That is how the long arc from 1848 to the present has been sustained. In much the same way, the alumni association also requires new blood. It has long been under the steady guidance of pillars like Carl Burns and Frank Dileo. But now is an opportune time to consider its future direction.

As a younger member of the association,

I have found my experience to be rewarding. In particular, I have personally found the role unique as I am closer in age to the current actives than I am to many alumni association members. And, from my vantage point, I can share both the concerns and the worldview of all involved. It is here, in the middle, that I am able to focus on both the short- and long-term concerns of the Delta Chapter.

Thus, I respectfully write to you with emphasis on my own generation. The long arc of the Delta Chapter depends upon an active and robust alumni association. New, younger members are a necessity. So, speaking to my contemporaries, I ask that you consider getting involved. Rekindle your connection to the house. Make a donation of your time. Invest your sweat equity. In this modern era, it does not take much.

Much of the business of the alumni association is handled remotely through semi-regular Zoom meetings and emails. While it may feel socially distant, it is no less fulfilling. And, most importantly, it ensures that the Delta Chapter continues for future generations of brothers to come.

In TKPhi,
Tom Deamus '07

Legal Committee Report

As a member of the legal committee, I am able to report that we continue to refine our annual meeting process, and hope to be able to propose an amendment to our bylaws to allow for a virtual meeting process, given the pandemic issues that exist in the United States.

In addition, we are active in drafting COVID-19 disclosures for our undergraduate brothers living in the house. Eventually, we hope to refine our underlying lease document into an electronic format for easier signing and presentation in the future.

Finally, we continue to monitor and report on any legal issues that present themselves to our membership.

In TKPhi,
Tim Little '78

delta alumni news

Updates from brothers near and far—most written in 2018 following publication of the last *Scarlet Zete*.

Lawrence E. "Larry" Priddy '54 writes: "Sadly, my wife, Joan, died November 7, 2017. The adjustment has been difficult. Fortunately, I have dear friends at my church and lodge who have been most supportive, in addition to my family. Retired from J&J after 30 years and also from lay ministry in the United Methodist Church and Stephen Ministry. Have three living children, one deceased, six grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren."

James A. "Jim" Byrne '55 is retired, and spends five months in Florida and still plays some golf. (sjbyrne6@comcast.net)

Munroe A. "Mun" Weiant Jr. '56 writes: "My dad, **Monroe A. Weiant '26** was a Rutgers grad, a Zete, and an active alumnus. I retired from Pitney Bowes in 2002, living in Connecticut with my wife, Kathy (Douglas, 1958)." (weiantpb@earthlink.net)

"I am very happy to learn there will be 'a new beginning' for our Delta Chapter," writes **Stephen M. "Steve" Fisher '58**. "Perhaps there could be a meeting not so early next time. I was Phi my senior year after 'climbing the ladders.' I have some chapter pictures you might like, plus four years of Rutgers yearbooks. I am still working full time as an orthodontist and planning to retire in less than two years." (ssfsh1984@aol.com; fisherstaff@yahoo.com)

Frederick G. "Fritz" Kuhn '63 writes that he was a Lt. Colonel in the U.S. Air Force (retired 1988) and an L-1011 captain with Delta Airlines (retired 1998). (fgkuhn1@gmail.com)

"Retired—celebrated 53rd wedding anniversary last August (2017) with Lois," notes **Edward "Ed" Penberty '63**. "Have nine grandchildren ages 8 to 22. All in all, enjoying retirement." (penbertyed@comcast.net)

Leland A. "Lee" Stanford '63 writes: "Have been retired from practice of law since 2008. Moved from New Jersey to Delaware the same year and enjoy lower Rehoboth Beach area. Have been teaching at Oster Lifelong Learning—history, not law—for the past three years." (lelandstanford3@comcast.net)

Paul "PJ" Allman '67 writes: "Fully retired now and since 2003 have been spending half of our time in Portland, Oregon and the other half in Paris, France. Good health, good wife, good life ... and always, fond memories of the years and friends at 18 College Ave." (allmanpaulj@gmail.com)

Gary Christ '67 sent this news: "Received some bad news in November. Cancer of the tongue! After numerous tests, surgery at University of Pennsylvania hospital in Philly on January 8, 2018, by the No. 1 surgeon in the U.S. Two months of rehab learning to swallow and speak again. Brother **Jim Riley '64** keeping my morale up!"

"Keep up the good work!" writes **Jack Bush '70**. "Having an active chapter at 18 College Ave. is hopefully a positive experience for the actives as it was for me." (jackbush81@comcast.net)

Thomas L. Costa '73 writes "I am a successfully retired attorney, splitting my time between Long Island and Florida, and playing plenty of golf and tennis. Next year, I will celebrate my 30th anniversary with my wife, Doreen, in Tahiti. My older son covers sports for the *Wall Street*

deceased

We regret to announce the death of the following alumni, which we have learned of since the publication of the last Scarlet Zete.

William H. Schneidewind Jr. '51
January 31, 2019

Richard A. Rizk '55
August 15, 2017

William Thomas Bennett Jr. '57
June 24, 2018

Rudolph O. Schmid '58
February 2, 2018

Albert W. Seifert '59
December 8, 2015

Walter Szymanski Jr. '63
November 24, 2020

L. Woodhull Holloway '65
April 25, 2018

Michael Ross Folio '78
June 27, 2018

David C. Cook '87
April 16, 2017

Journal, my younger son works in finance in NYC. I have two wonderful grandchildren." (ThomasLCosta@gmail.com)

John "Neon" Holder '86 writes: "Kathi and I are still living in the Buffalo area for some reason. Our kids are just about launched and we are adapting well to empty nest life. I recently joined a new firm, Hologie. Kathi and I took up golf and joined a local club. Thanks to those who put the time into our house!" (jth1163@yahoo.com)

John Martino '00 wrote in April 2018: "Had our second child, baby girl Gianna, on May 6, 2017. Made our son, Connor, a big brother." (jmartino2104@gmail.com)

New Brotherhood Involvement Cause for Celebration

Hello, brothers, I hope that this update finds you and your loved ones well in this unprecedented time. This past fall we had an alumni meeting at the house. The actives living in the house wanted to, and did, attend. Currently, there are 15 brothers in the house—down from past years due to COVID-19 and Rutgers' decision to hold mostly virtual classes with some exceptions. This has been exacerbated by some brothers' families experiencing a financial hardship with some parents laid off, furloughed, or their businesses closing. These are difficult times, but that is not what I am writing about today.

We have a great group of brothers at the house. Many thanks go out to the recently graduated brothers who recruited these guys. The current brotherhood took an active and participatory role in the alumni meeting, and when we opened the meeting up to questions, the board thought the brothers would ask alumni to better their living conditions. Instead, they asked what they could do. They had power-washed the front porch and asked if they could put a fresh coat of paint on it and the black railings along the steps. They also asked if they could paint the bathrooms. They have taken pride in 18 College Ave. and, as a group, want to better the house for themselves and the future generations of Zetes.

Additionally, that evening was the first NFL game of the season. The brothers got together and purchased snacks, drinks, and chicken wings and proceeded to make the wings from scratch. They asked us to stay after the meeting, watch the game with them, and share in what they had purchased. They also asked us to participate in a virtual rush where potential new brothers asked us questions about our time at Zeta Psi. Some recently graduated brothers were on the call as well.

My takeaways were: 1. We have recently graduated alumni who did a great job with the new brotherhood; 2. The current actives care about the house (and by the way, it looked the best it has in many years); 3. They actually want to hang out with the "old guys;" 4. They valued our opinion and asked us to help with their recruitment; and 5. It was great that the recently graduated brothers also participated and volunteered their time on the virtual rush. All in all, I think that you will all be proud of the new brotherhood and when you have the time, stop by and see for yourself. They would love to meet you!

In TKPhi,
Bob Volosin '87