

*There are some familiar faces on the campus of Robert Morris University these days... or at least some familiar colors.*

In the spring of this year 20 young men, nearly all freshman, found themselves dissatisfied with what had become a dwindling Greek system at RMU and decided to communicate that point of view to University officials. Unbeknownst to them, their effort happened to coincide perfectly with a recent resurgence in AXP alumni activity - culminating in the chartering of the Pi Phi Graduate Chapter in February - and a year's worth of discussions about bringing undergrad Crows back to campus. Through several meetings with school officials, our graduate leadership learned that the administration, from the President on down, were fully supportive of a restored Greek system and, as the oldest national fraternity on campus, Alpha Chi Rho's potential role in that revival. Enter the school's Director of Residence Life to do a little matchmaking and, the rest is history - Alpha Chi Rho is back at Robert Morris and has helped reenergize the Greek system as a whole. Since the beginning of the fall semester and the return of the Crows, the campus has seen the most interest in Greek Life in recent years. And with 11 new postulants pinned following the Fall Rush process, AXP is leading the way as one of the largest fraternities on campus!

As if the return of the RMU chapter isn't enough, Pi Phi brothers have a landmark birthday to celebrate: founded on May 16, 1970, the Pi Phi chapter is celebrating its Ruby Anniversary this year, and enthusiasm among the alums couldn't be higher. From regular annual events like the football home opener tailgate party to ad-hoc celebrations and strong showings at undergrad functions, there's been a flurry of activity and the graduate brothers are clearly excited about the future. Along with supporting the growth of the new colony, the alums have also renewed their focus on growing the endowment of the AXP scholarship at RMU, named in honor of professor and fellow Crow brother Dr. Norbert K. "Doc" Pietrzak.

Not to be outdone, the undergrad colony has been busy this semester, as well - from the midnight dodgeball tournament to several tailgating events for NEC conference champ RMU football games, the Colony has become one of the most widely-recognized organizations on campus - not to mention the most vocal and energetic group of students at RMU sporting events. When not engaged in these events, these AXP men have spent their spare time dominating the RMU intramural flag football league. Despite all these extracurriculars, the main goal of the colony has been strengthening the brotherhood among members and building a foundation for years to come - as evidenced in events like "Traditional Tuesdays", where the colonists convene for dinner and a movie, and spend time together learning the history and ideals of Alpha Chi Rho. If all goes as planned, the colony should be chartered this spring - I think we can all toast to that!

Jeff Crooks ('13)  
Doug Lynn ('93)

