

Update of Pi Phi, the Newest Chapter of the Fraternity

Since re-chartering on April 16, 2011 the Pi Phi Chapter at Robert Morris University has been working hard to remain the most recognizable Fraternity on campus by staying highly visible and active on Campus and in our Community.

After a couple months worth of needed down time at the beginning of summer, the Pi Phi Chapter made itself well known at this year's 101st National Convention in our hometown of Pittsburgh, PA. The Chapter had full representation of delegates at both the undergraduate and graduate levels and won various awards and scholarships. The Chapter won the Weston L. Dangler Award for Best Communications to the National Office. This can be attributed to the Chapter's needed communication with the National Office to get things off the ground. The Chapter plans to keep the same level of contact going forward in order to meet the National initiative of increased communications, and we encourage everyone to have open and honest lines of communication to our National Office.

In addition to the overall Chapter Communications award, the Chapter can boast that it had three individual Brothers winning various scholarships. Brother Michael Ludwig, currently the President of Pi Phi and a Junior studying Secondary Education-Mathematics, received the Charles W. Coughlin Award for the highest GPA of all new Brothers. Mike is a beacon of academic excellence with a semester and cumulative GPA of 4.0. He is an example to us all that hard work and time management skills do pay off.

The John C. Enk Scholarship was awarded to Brother Jeff Crooks. Jeff was also the recipient of the AXP/Norbert K. Pietrzak Scholarship, which is a local scholarship established by the graduate chapter of AXP at Robert Morris to help financially needy Brothers of Pi Phi. The combined \$2,800 scholarship proceeds helped Brother Crooks financially while he worked at an unpaid internship in Washington D.C. this past summer related to his Political Science minor.

Brother Alan Buehler won the Robert B. Stewart-Undergraduate Man of the Year award. On campus, Brother Buehler has demonstrated leadership through various clubs at the University and is an active participant throughout the local community. To name a few, Brother Buehler is the President of the Student Government Association, a Freshman Mentor, Chaplin of the Pi Phi Chapter, a member of the Residence Hall Association and an active member of Chi Alpha, a campus ministry group at RMU. Brother Buehler is easily one of the most recognized men on campus. When Ron Shidemantle, Greek Advisor at RMU repeatedly says, "I wish we had twenty more guys like Alan", I think it speaks volumes to Alan's character.

The Graduate and Undergraduate Chapters of Pi Phi are also proud of the fact that at the National Convention, Brother Ken Chapel was elected Vice President of the National Fraternity. Serving as the Graduate Chapter President and Undergraduate Chapter

Advisor for Pi Phi, Brother Chapel has been vital in helping Pi Phi colonize, re-charter, and just about everything in between. We owe a debt of gratitude to Brother Chapel and wish him well in his new leadership role.

Following Convention, a summer summit was held to plan for the upcoming fall semester and was attended by more than half of the Brothers of the Chapter. Being the first semester as a chartered Chapter, Pi Phi knew that it had to focus on fall Rush and all the various events that surround it sponsored by the Greek Community and by ourselves. Another major topic discussed at the summit was Risk Management in light of the fact that Brothers secured off campus housing, which would undoubtedly be the nucleus of most Chapter happenings. At Pi Phi, we work hard and we play hard too, but we want to continuously remind ourselves to play responsibly according to our Risk Management policies and procedures. In a nutshell, we've come too far to become complacent. Nonetheless, all the Brothers are extremely excited to have the addition of our Crows Nest.

By the time the fall semester began, Pi Phi was geared up and ready to recruit. Several rush events were held including deck hockey, midnight dodge ball, and a traditional smoker. We created a marketing campaign and used materials approved by National, specifically the *AXP Facts*, which gave us a lot of traction at a Greek Community sponsored picnic and at our Meet the Greeks Night. Although we promoted ourselves during Rush, we really wanted to have undertones of promoting the entire Greek system at RMU, so we encouraged every recruit to talk to all of the other Fraternities on campus as well. In the end, Rush was a complete success, with 29 men accepting bids, giving us a growth rate over 100% from the previous semester. There are now 28 Brothers and 29 Postulants comprising Pi Phi, making it the largest male Fraternity on campus.

Since Alpha Chi Rho's return to RMU as a Colony, the Greek Community has been re-energized and is also experiencing great growth. Initially, the Greeks represented about 3% of the student population. Now, after a successful Rush by everyone, that number is approaching 15%. With tremendous growth comes a lot of growing pains and to help the school with some of their concerns, AXP sponsored a Risk Management seminar hosted by our insurance provider, Willis. The topic of the evening was *Personal Consequences: Understanding the Personal Liability of Your Greek Experience*. This presentation was widely attended by the Greek Community and resonated within all of us our responsibility to respect one another and to avoid hazing and alcohol abuse.

Pi Phi has also made its mark on the campus through other activities. The Brothers dominated the first intramural events of the fall semester, winning both the kickball and dodgeball championships and are currently in the finals for flag football. Socially, the return to school means the return of our *Traditional Tuesdays* which is a standing date for the Brotherhood to come together as one for dinner and a movie or some other fun event. Additionally, The Crows recently hosted a root beer social of fun and games on

campus to help the school promote that there are fun things to do on campus during the weekends.

Lastly, Pi Phi is currently working on plans for the 2nd Annual Crowball Basketball Tournament to be held early in 2012. Last year's event had some scheduling conflicts, but was still able to raise \$500 for AlexandrasPHATE, a non-profit foundation to increase Plagiocephaly, Helmet and Torticollis Education. We would like to specifically thank the Lambda Chi Phi Chapter of Drexel University for their generous donation! You can find out more at alexandrasphate.org.

Overall, Pi Phi is proud of the success we have had thus far and look forward to maintaining the positive vibe and momentum. We also want to let everyone know that if they are in the area or are looking for a weekend road trip somewhere to consider stopping by to visit with Pi Phi. Our door is always open!

BE MEN,
Jeff Crooks and Ken Chapel

