A View from the Road Leadership Consultant Ryan Barck



This semester has been a hectic semester as a consultant. It has been very busy and lots happened. My travels pick up where they left off as I traveled into New York State to visit the many Chapters around the Empire State. My first visit was to the Colony at Queens College, in Queens, NY. This is a Colony of motivated men who really want to be successful and take the next step into becoming a fully-fledged Chapter. Unfortunately, they have had some monetary issues and school relations problems. Despite these challenges, I still think they will be ready for chartering in the near future. My next visit takes me to Stony Brook on Long Island, NY. This is a Chapter with a lot of love for the Fraternity and a strong Brotherhood among one another. Despite their numbers being low, they still do a lot of community service and have solidified a solid class who was just recently initiated.

My next visit was down the road to the New York Institute of Technology. This is and has been a very interesting Chapter because it is primarily a commuter school. They have found a good routine that works well for them and have had a constructive fall semester with a large class of postulants and continued involvement in campus activities. My next visit takes me to Pace University where the men of the Colony there are preparing for their chartering. They are a very different group from where they were just one year ago at this time. They are very focused on achieving their goals, and raising the bar for themselves which is already at a very high mark. I can honestly say that they are ready to be chartered and that they will be a great asset to the Alpha Chi Rho family.

My next Chapter visit brought me to SUNY Geneseo and the men of Phi Zeta Chi Chapter. This chapter runs very efficiently and despite a minor problem, is a very good Chapter. My next visit brought me to Syracuse University where the men of Phi Epsilon have fallen on hard times. The Chapter is very small compared to the campus average and is in a rut. They have problems with recruitment, community service, and involvement/visibility. Many of these problems have been addressed and a strategic goal

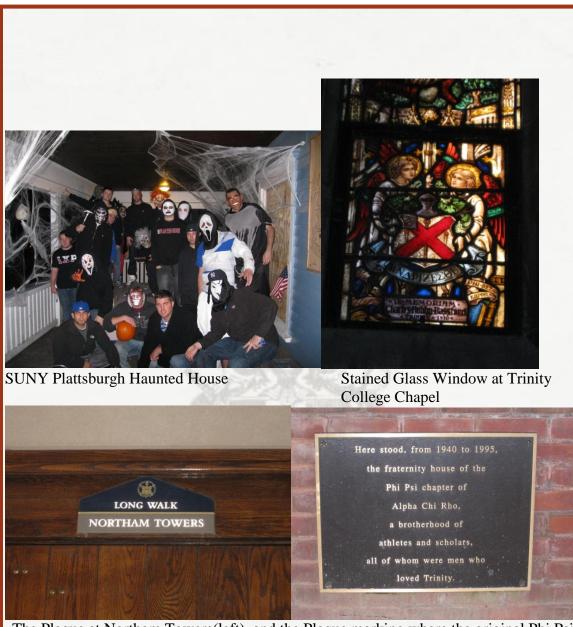
oriented plan is being implemented for the spring of 2012. My next visit was to the great north and the Zeta phi Chapter at Clarkson University. The Chapter is very well run with lots of alumni involvement. They are very active on the IFC and recently finished improvement to the Chapter house.

The next visit I made was to SUNY Plattsburgh, where I was able to see their 5th annual "Haunted House" in action. It was impressive how they converted their house, and they were able to raise \$500 for the American Cancer Society. They are a Chapter that needs direction, but one I feel can overcome their adversities. My next visit was to Rensselaer Polytechnic and the men of Delta Phi. They are one of the best run Chapters of Alpha Chi Rho and are swiftly approaching the largest in regards to membership levels. They manage three houses and have great accountability for their Brothers. I can definitely see them in the running for the Curly Cup this summer. My next visit brought me to SUNY Albany, a Chapter with a checkered past. This group really has the want to change from their mistakes in the past. They still have many struggles, but with the help of alumni and National, I can see them being a very successful Chapter in the near future.

My next visit was a pleasant one as I was able to attend the Chartering of the Alpha Phi Beta Chapter at the University of Cincinnati. It was a great ceremony and the men there have built something to be proud of. My next visits were to Worcester Polytechnic and the beginning of it all at Trinity College. The WPI men were heavily involved in recruitment at the time of my visit and successfully yielded a stellar class of postulants in the mid 20's. My next visit was to Trinity College where I visited our men and the beginning school of Alpha Chi Rho. Seeing Northam Towers for the first time was a humbling experience and one I will never forget. The men of Phi Psi are also doing very well as they were ending the football season with a respectable 9-1 record for the school, of which many members are a part of.

I then made my visit to Philadelphia for Crow Bowl 2011. There where many Chapters in attendance for Crow Bowl at the Temple-Ambler's campus, and the weather couldn't have been better for mid-November. In the end it was the teams from Drexel and Ramapo who battled it out just before dusk, with the Ramapo squad capturing their first Crow Bowl championship ever. My final visit just before Thanksgiving brought me to SUNY Binghamton where our men have been operating on a plateau for some time now. They are not a very large or involved chapter but seem to do just enough. They will be moving into a new house next year, and I think with the new class they expect for the spring that everything should be fine for Phi Chi Phi.

This fall has been a tough road for me as a consultant, but I feel many lessons have been learned and great strides have been taken. As I look forward to the spring, and my last semester as a consultant, I am humbled to think of all the progress the Fraternity has made and will continue to make into the future.



The Plaque at Northam Towers(left), and the Plaque marking where the original Phi Psi house once stood on the Campus at Trinity College.