



ouRPI

Pi Chapter of Zeta Psi
WINTER/SPRING

TROY, NEW YORK

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
2020

This issue covers Pi Chapter news from the 2019/20 school year.

PI STEADY AND STABLE IN SUDDEN SHUTDOWN

BY: Jim Ljunglin '57

The actives were on spring break, several in Cancun, when the shutdown frenzy swept the college world. They got the word that spring break would extend a week and that they would be required to vacate the house at the end of the week after, March 20. Everybody got back and was able to comply without the need to ask for an exemption which the Administration offered to hardship cases. The Greek houses were covered with the dorms shutdown as integral parts of the RPI residential commons, an agreement the Greeks signed ten or more years ago.

We have only a few graduating seniors this year, and they are disappointed to lose celebrations of academic and athletic achievements as well as the spring formal, alumni weekend, and commencement. (It was a terrific 24-5 year for RPI basketball with Pat Mahoney '21 named 2020 Division III East Player of the Year and to the All-America Division III First Team.) But departures were orderly if hasty. One brother had to send a local girlfriend back for his contacts. Max Bellomy, the Phi, is maintaining virtual chapter communication from home in Massachusetts. This will include special means of initiating the six men pledged in the early spring. We are planning a regular re-opening of the fall term on August 23 including recruitment of the non-freshmen allowed for that term.

Fortunately, the elders are well set to take over care of the house as the Administration demanded that no students be left there. Josh McWilliam '02, Elder President, Tony Bourassa '70, board member and maintenance contractor, and Rick Case '70, former board member, live close enough to keep an eye on

things and participate in the all-Greek response to the crisis. Crisis isn't really the right word for the Pi situation, though. Because of Tony's continuing work at the house, we were able to step smoothly into a customary "summer" mode, albeit a couple of months early. That means cutting back on utilities, locking up, watching for leaks, and, yes, progressing some projects we know we will want in the long term. These include finishing the basement ritual closet and the 3rd floor shower amenities, and possibly adding deliberate heat to the basements if we like the quote we get.

You certainly hear about colleges being forced to make refunds for the foreshortened term. As of this writing, RPI has not yet announced its position, but it will surely exclude tuition justified by the online substitute. We expect they will offer pro-ration of room and board. This we will be agreeable to follow, hopefully in the form of credits against the fall fees except for the graduates. It will cost us around \$40,000. In the past that would have been a serious blow. Our prudent build-up of reserves enables us to get by with only a pained wince. The real issue for the future will be whether the US residential college experience will retain its hold despite the famously growing financial strain. We may hope that Rensselaer will end up in the "yes" column on that. With all this in the background we look forward to putting the current bump into the past as we go forward into another prosperous and productive school year at the house.

Our print edition has limited space – so please be sure to “LIKE” our Facebook page (The Pi Chapter of Zeta Psi) and visit our website: <http://www.pizetes.org> for more news about YOUR Pi chapter!

Passing of Rick Kasold '70 & New "In Memoriam" Website



As many of you heard, we lost brother "Tricky" Rick Kasold '70 on February 9th, 2020 after a brief illness. Jim Peta '64 and brother Peter '67 were able to attend Rick's services in Florida and pass along our condolences from the Pi. Rick absolutely loved Zeta Psi and cherished the time he spent with his brothers. He was always eager to reconnect with Elders, but also had a knack for getting to know the new actives at 25 Belle Ave. Rick was heavily involved in the operations of the Pi Chapter for many years, serving as Elder Phi and Chairman of the Board, and stepping up whenever help was needed. One of his favorite times of the year was the Zeta Psi International Convention and he recognized what a valuable experience it was for actives to form bonds with Elders from the Pi and other chapters. He always found a way for actives that wanted to attend, and strongly encouraged young Elders to participate in the Convention as well. In Rick's honor, the Rick Kasold Elder Leadership Fund was set up to further his vision. Many Pi Zetes and others have already donated. If interested, please visit the link below:

<https://www.memberplanet.com/campaign/zetes/kasold>

While many of us know Rick from his presence at the house over several years, we've lost other great Zetes as well – most recently receiving notification on the passing of Bob Violante '61 in February, and Lee deBarros '58 in March 2019. These events spurred exchanges (via email) of fond memories of events and relationships with these brothers. Unfortunately we have limited space in the ouRPI to preserve and share these experiences, so we are starting an "In Memoriam" section of the <http://www.pizetes.org> website where we can capture pictures, memories and comments from brothers.

Pi Chapter Campaign Ends

Fueled by Jim Ljunglin's \$50,000 match offer, the first phase of the Pi Campaign has ended with a total of \$175,675 from over 70 contributors. This is the highest campaign total since the Pi reactivation in 1951! We received wide support from elders giving in a range of \$50 to \$25,000; their loyalty and support is an inspiration as we go forward.

We still need elders who can make leadership gifts to be sure that the house can weather whatever pressures it will come under. Many can contribute smaller amounts regularly and that is very beneficial also; it all adds up. Of course, the early classes now have elders who have been successful, have seen to family needs and can now afford to help the Pi and the young Brothers who follow.

Having a strong financial position helps us to thrive in a competitive environment as other fraternities build new or renovate facilities, as school rules or new programs add pressure and as social norms adversely affect Greek communities.

Our improving financial position has allowed us to continuously maintain the house and add valued improvements. For example, this year the third floor head is being renovated and the wing head will need it soon as will the refinishing of main house oak woodwork. There is no end to upkeep projects. And, in the past few years we installed fire protection sprinklers throughout and added a full house emergency power generator.

Just recently there was a 13 hour power loss in the community but our students were able to live normally because of the generator. Alumni have also been funding the Ira Richer Scholarship Fund at IHQ. That fund has reached an amount to allow a scholarship to be granted to a house Brother. In the future, if we can create a reasonable endowment, we may be able to help more Brothers cope with higher RPI costs.

To build upon this first phase, we ask our alum to assess their positions and to consider making gifts to the Pi either directly or thru the Zeta Psi Educational Foundation which is clearly tax deductible. Gifts made to us directly are more flexible for us and are preferred. And, a very important next step is to ask our alumni to include the Pi Chapter in their estates.

Campaign Contributors (phase 1)

(Including pledges, no order within category)

Over \$50,000

Jim Ljunglin '57

\$10-25,000

Al Hobbs

\$10-25,000

Bob Sendall

\$5-10,000

Bob Leonard

Harvey Poppel

Jay Webb

Jim Ferland

\$1-5,000

Frank Harrington

Lauck Walton

Josh McWilliam

Stan Seto

Nolin Borrero

Pete Marinaro

Tony Bourassa

Steve Popper

Shane Blair

Jim Meade

Jay Stolzenhaler

\$500-1,000

Rick Kasold

Jim Peta

John Spohn

Andrew Wallace

Frank Haynes

\$100-500

Frank Barone

Ted Curtis

Wes Haines

Mark Morse

Rich Schlumpf

Dave Snider

Ed Smolinski

Craig Brown

\$100-500 (continued)

Seth Goodman

Rob Kovalcik

Travis Stavac

Joe Briggs

Rich Hogan

Phil Wunderle

Angel Davila

Steve Strungis

Steve Durfee

Eric Warner

Keith Warner

Francis Fairlamb

Rick Case

Doug Peloquin

Robert Rainey

Tom Moberg

Ron Dolfi

Mike Bailey

Dennis Adams

Kurt Hollasch

Elton Kaufmann

Travis Worthington

Jim Burkhard

Claudio Caballero

Pete Hills

Pat Welch

Jim Monteleone

Bruce Smith

Fred Tibbetts

Kyle Hollasch

Jeff Tumpkowsky

Rob Moy

Tom Williams

John D'Addieco

Craig Demko

Paul Larson

Jim Cleary

Peter Peta

Other

Don Gaylord

Zeta Psi Pi Chapter West Coast Alumni Event

by Tom Moberg '71

In early February, prior to the pandemic outbreak, I received an email invitation from Bob Dawyot '71 to attend a get-together with a few Zeta Pi brothers who live in the Bay area (i.e. California bay area). Since I live in upstate NY, this is not a short trip and I think the invite was more in friendly jest than a serious expectation. But Bob said a few of them had been getting together annually for about 15 years and he thought it would be good to get some new blood in the group and help the conversation. Bob and I were roommates freshman year. I mentioned the email to my wife Kathy and to my utter surprise she said "let's go". So we made last minute plans to fly into San Francisco and spend 6 days in sunny Berkeley, California in mid February.

The reunion get together was held at the Golden Squirrel in Oakland. Attending were myself, Bob, Justi Wunderle '73, Angel Davila '72 and Bob brought in a surprise attendee Jake Holmes '71 who drove up from San Diego for the event. We had a great time catching up on our lives since RPI and reminiscing about the good old days while having a nice dinner and plenty of cold drafts. It was great fun and nice to see all the guys. I had seen Angel and Justi within the last several years as each was able to attend Alumni Weekend in Troy. I hadn't seen Bob in over 20 years and hadn't seen Jake since we graduated RPI. We all looked pretty good for a bunch of old farts. Stupidly, or because we were so engrossed in conversation, no one thought to take a photo.

While in Berkeley, I visited the Zeta Psi chapter at UCB and met a few of the actives there. Nice house, nice guys (of course). My wife and I enjoyed doing some tourist adventures (SF bay cruise, Muir Woods National Monument, beach time and other fun stuff). We spent a few outings with Justi and his significant other Sue (a delightful lady) and enjoyed a lovely dinner at Sue's house on our last night. So glad I got the opportunity to see those brothers especially since our annual event in Troy was extirpated by COVID-19. I'm looking forward to Alumni Weekend 2021 which will be the 50th (class year reunion) for me and those in my class of 1971. Hoping all of you will consider attending AW 2021.

The Legacy Society

The Pi Chapter has established a Legacy Society for those who are naming the Pi Chapter as a beneficiary in their wills. This is a valuable resource for the Chapter and is one strong leg in the effort to establish an endowment to help assure financial stability while providing good facilities for the active Brothers. For now, it is Jim Peta who has been collecting our money for many years. Jim's address is: **15 Blueberry La, New Hartford, CT, 06057** The bequest should be to the New York State Capital District Association of Zeta Psi, Inc. at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and currently located at 25 Belle Ave., Troy, NY 12180.

There may be inheritance tax reasons to make bequests to our non-profit fund at the IHQ. Such donations would be made to:

Zeta Psi Educational Foundation, Pi Fund, 15 S. Henry St., Pearl River, NY 10965

We will begin to acknowledge Brothers who are making this provision. Please so advise Jim Peta (jipeta@charter.net), Jim Ljunglin (ljunglin@yahoo.com) or Jay Webb (jayjwebb@comcast.net).

2019-2020 DUES AND CONTRIBUTION FORM

Please clip and mail, or simply include the information below with your check.

You may also donate on-line at <http://www.pizetes.org>

Name _____ Class Year _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Regular dues @ \$50 Email my receipt!
 Other gift @ \$_____

Go Green! Please check above if you would like a Donation Acknowledgement via Email instead of US Mail (provide email above)

Please complete the above information and mail directly to:
Jim Peta, 15 Blueberry Lane, New Hartford, CT, 06057

Note that regular dues will be acknowledged only in the Fall Financial ouRPI. Any donations above the \$50 dues will be acknowledged with a Thank You card / email as well as listing in the Financial ouRPI. Anyone who would still like an acknowledgement for regular dues may request it when sending in this form and Jim will be happy to send you an e-mail or regular mail "Thank You", whichever you prefer.

Thank you for supporting the Pi Chapter!

This contribution to the NYSCDA of Zeta Psi is not tax deductible under IRS regulations.