

Newsletter
July 2006

The Alpha Nu's



“People who say it cannot be done should not interrupt those who are doing it.” *Anonymous*

The wheels are turning again and the newly elected Board is moving forward. The Alumni Association is back in business after a brief hiatus. We have had two meetings so far: the Annual Meeting in May and the Board of Directors meeting last month.

Discussion during the Annual meeting quickly turned to the Active Chapter and the very survival of Alpha Nu Omega at UMD. It was revealed that the actives had not pledged anyone in 2005, were down to four members, and **most importantly** lacked direction and a sense of tradition and what it really means to be an “Alpha Nu”.

Much discussion swirled around our roots as a fraternity, why we came to be in the first place and how we have evolved throughout the years. It is fairly well agreed upon that things have ‘stagnated’ over the last several years, but the question arises “how do we bring back the tradition and honor that once stood for Alpha Nu Omega?”

There has been a backlash against fraternities and the Greek system as a whole throughout the country as lawsuits and huge settlements have wracked universities in recent years. Much of this has to do with excessive drinking and hazing. Where we once celebrated a happy and healthy relationship with UMD’s administration, we now face indifference if not outright hostility. We are a liability to the university in their eyes, a ‘lawsuit waiting to happen’.

So how do we reinvent ourselves to coexist and thrive within the university system and still keep alive our traditions and values set forth by the founding fathers in 1959?



"If you don't know where you are going, you'll end up some place else."

Yogi Berra

These are the challenges we face as we approach our fiftieth anniversary as a fraternity. Preliminary discussions have run the gamut from disbanding the active chapter and saying 'it was good while it lasted' to completely reinventing the organization from the top on down. The task, we think, lies somewhere in the middle. While we need to rebuild upon the principles that made us great we also need to adapt to make this a much stronger and more relevant organization on today's campus. We need to work with the university's administration to gain their insight, knowledge and trust. We need to look at every aspect of the organization from recruitment and pledging to traditions and values. We need to make Alpha Nu an organization that people will again want to join, take pride in being a member and who can take us into the next fifty years with dignity and honor.

We are asking for all of your input in this vital stage of our existence. Chris Koncar is heading up the Active Chapter Liaison Committee and is looking for representatives from every era to be a part of this rebuilding process. It's going to be both challenging and exciting to see the transformation of Alpha Nu in the coming months and years, but the process needs to start NOW.

Brooks Knodt Scholarship Awarded

The Daryl Brooks Knodt Scholarship was awarded to Jeff Gaylord for the 2005-2006 school year. Congratulations Jeff!



Board of Directors and Officers Results

Jeff Reiser- President- Social
 Scott Schnuckle- still a pledge
 William Wolfe- President Elect
 Al Michaud- Secretary, 50th Reunion
 Greg Hinds- Historical, Communications
 Chad Roberts- Scholarship
 Ruben Vazquez
 John Erickson- Treasurer, Financial Management
 Mike Dean- UMD Alumni Liaison
 Nick Schmidt
 Doug Johnson- Past President
 Chris Koncar- Active Chapter Liaison

We would like to thank those that have stepped forward to volunteer their time and energy to help keep the spirit of Alpha Nu Omega alive and well. We are looking for committee members to help out the chairmen with the tasks they have before them. Help is needed in all areas, especially Active Chapter liaison and communications as well as every other committee you see above. New alumni who still can relate to the active chapter (as opposed to the rest of us old fogies) please help Chris Koncar with his committee as this will be very important in helping the active chapter survive. All you web geeks, please help Greg and Al as we need to revamp the website and bring it in house. We currently rely on an outside entity.

There will also be a lot of work coming up to help plan and pull off the biggest bash Alpha Nu has ever thrown- the 50th Anniversary. Too early to start planning- you say? HA! We should have started yesterday!

So pick a committee and do whatever you can- an hour a week, an hour a month, it all helps us to become a stronger organization. If you haven't volunteered before-- the time to do it is NOW!



"That which
does not kill you
makes you
stronger."

Nietzsche

A Word from our President...

If you are like me, I'm sure you have been asking yourself "what can I do for Alpha Nu?" Your chance to give back is now! As you may or may not know, the current edition of Alpha Nu Omega is at a crossroads. The near future is of the utmost importance to the continued success of our storied existence. The 2006-07 group consists of 4 members after NOT pledging anyone in 2005. Their message to me has been that they are lacking in tradition and looking for answers. We need everyone's support at this time, either financially or through volunteering to assist the current Alumni Association Board of Directors. Our immediate mission is to help the active chapter grow. This is to be done via a strong liaison group between the Actives and the Alumni. We need to show them our commitment and the traditions of this great organization. As the 50th Anniversary approaches, it becomes even more imperative that we all band together so that future Alpha Nu's can experience the joys, brotherhood and camaraderie of belonging to a leading organization at UMD. We need to make Alpha Nu an organization that people want to join again. We need to make it easy for the active chapter to pledge because people will know of and respect Alpha Nu Omega again!

And now for the fun stuff! The Fall Meeting is back in Duluth! Plan on attending Saturday November 4th at 9:00am. (Location to be announced) Then for after the meeting we are working on securing hockey tickets for the November 4th game against Hans' dreaded Minnesota Gophers. Yes, it is a hockey school! There is also a UMD Alumni "Break the Ice" reception before the game at the DECC.



Please RSVP ASAP or you'll be SOL as we have set aside a block of 40 tickets and hotel rooms (probably at the Radisson) on a first come first served basis. This will hopefully become a tradition for the Fall Meeting!

The Board of Directors will meet Monday, August 7th at 7:00pm:

Holiday Circuits

11126 Bren Road West

Minnetonka

Call John "Squirrel" Erickson for directions at

(952) 988-8028 or

visit www.holiday.com

We encourage anyone and everyone to attend and volunteer for a committee and prepare to give your valuable input. I look forward to your participation and support!

Fraternally, Jeff Reiser President

Upcoming Events

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| <p>Board of Directors Meeting Monday, August 7th 7:00pm at Holiday Circuits. See above for details. Everyone is invited to attend!!</p> | <p>Fall Meeting November 4th at UMD 9:00 am Location to be announced Lunch in the Afternoon Hockey in the Evening!</p> | <p>Tickets will be available for the Nov. 4th UMD Gopher Hockey Game RSVP NOW! UMD "Break the Ice" reception at the DECC before Game</p> |
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Be a Part of History

Dear Brothers,

A little over a year ago I returned to the museum field, taking a position with the Dakota County Historical Society. The job is rewarding - DCCHS is successful, respected, and we are actively collecting, preserving and presenting local, state and national history. **I write hoping you will join the Society today and support our preservation and education work.**

Members receive our respected history magazine *Over the Years*, free admission to our museums and research library, invitations to special events and programs, and discounts on site rentals and museum store purchases. Please contact me for more information or view our website at www.dakotahistory.org.

Chad Roberts
Executive Director

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