



Lambda Lyre

Lambda Chapter of Kappa Delta Rho | University of California, Berkeley | Summer 2009

Alumni Relations Office | P.O. Box 80828, Atlanta, Georgia 30366

From the President

by Aaron Burke '00



Welcome to the Fall 2009 Lambda Lyre! I hope this issue finds you in good health and spirits.

Today I would love to talk about the state of the chapter and what has been happening - both good and bad - recently, but I need to talk to all of you about something more pressing, something at the heart of KDR at UC Berkeley: the Lambda Chapter House and how the board operates and manages the property.

Within the Lambda chapter there has been much discussion recently - some quite animatedly - about the condition of the chapter house and what can be done to ensure that KDR at Cal remains a strong institution, able to recruit young men of the highest quality. Our beloved chapter house is old, and though we have spent time and effort upgrading many parts of it in recent years, much still needs to be done.

In order to ensure that we provide a high quality living experience (which helps to translate into a beneficial learning and growth environment) the chapter house needs to be something that the actives can rely on, rather than a facility that constantly breaks down in one way or another. After taking a long hard look at our options, we on the alumni board have come to realize that the only way to ensure the overall functionality of the facility is a full renovation of the property. So with this in mind, we have begun the initial stages of a campaign to transform the Lambda Chapter House into a fully modernized facility that meets the needs of this, and ideally next generation's students.

The chapter house should be something that we can all feel a fond connection to, reminding us of our youth and our shared experiences there. And it should represent the values of KDR, so that when we bring our families to visit for homecoming or Cal Day we can proudly say "this was my home."

I hope you are as excited as I am as we begin this

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Lambda Lyre Suggestion Box: Feedback Wanted

Do you like the Lambda Lyre? What do you suggest to make it better? Would you like to contribute to the next edition?

Please send your comments, suggestions, or comments to Vitaliy at vitaliyb@live.com

We greatly appreciate your feedback!

Member Spotlight: Aras Mattis

Aras Mattis, who graduated from Berkeley in 1998, originally intended to go to Stanford. He explained, "I didn't know that much about Cal at the time. I was a good student at my high school but as it turned out I was turned down by Stanford. I decided I wanted to be a biologist, and that Berkeley would be a fantastic place to explore and a great place to excel. Being from L.A., I wanted some separation from my parents - Cal was the place!"

He joined KDR his freshman year: "I was living in Unit 1 (Putman). My roommate and I ventured out [to rush] in the fall of 1994, and we did go through Sigma Chi, but KDR was pretty down to earth and we liked it there. I think KDR had just come off probation and had 8 or 12 members. It was tiny, but the guys were great. Both Steve Kim and I joined. That year I got my highest grades of my entire college career!" He served the chapter as Senior Tribune, Junior Tribune, and House Manager.

Aras said, "Being part of the fraternity showed me that the real world doesn't always operate by the rules. Personalities could break down simple rules, and strong leadership was important to keep the ball rolling." Adding, "The best memories of KDR were definitely the football game days, the bar at KDR, gin fizzes, and playing basketball with the guys. Having house parties was always fun. We designed the waterfall that came out of the second floor into 'Lance's car's sunroof (because we couldn't get rid of that car) for the beach party. And getting all the sand for the beach part was a story in and

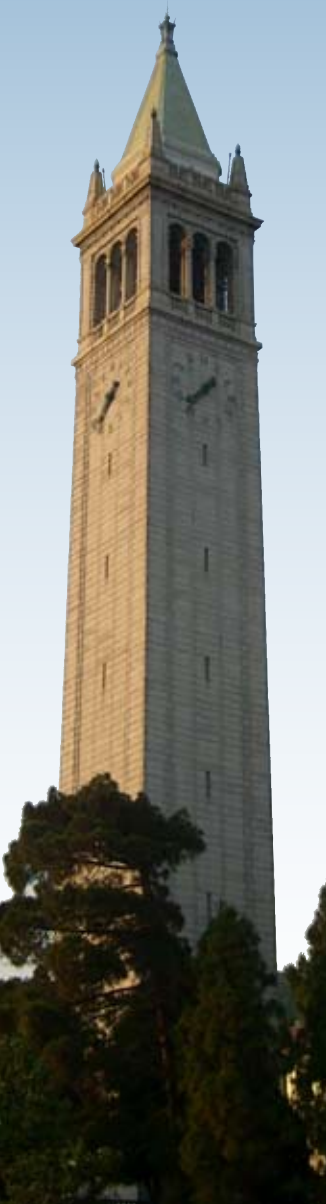
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Aras, his wife Kristina, and their son Vidas.

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Chapter News

Words from the Consul *by Piotr Kula*



Greetings from the Undergraduate Brothers of Lambda Chapter!

I am delighted to report that Spring Semester 2009 was one marked by positive change for our chapter.

The groundwork laid out in the past year has culminated into an increasingly strong bond between Lambda's undergraduates and alumni.

As Alumni President Burke mentioned, our Brothers worked together to renovate and upgrade much of our chapter house. I can confidently say that, through combined efforts, our home is a much safer and more pleasant place than it was before. On behalf of the undergraduates, let me express how excited we are to continue on this path and make our chapter house the best at Cal.

The National Fraternity of Kappa Delta Rho has also been more involved with our chapter. Steadfast in their efforts to support the westernmost outpost of KDR, the National Office organizes week-long visits by Leadership consultants who educate our chapter and facilitate growth. This fall we will be hosting Brother John Reynolds, a recruitment specialist. Additionally, the National Office has made available several fantastic leadership experiences for our brothers.

During the summer of 2009, our brothers attended the Undergraduate Inter-Fraternity Institute, the KDR Wilderness Institute, and of course the



Elmon M. Williams Leadership Academy offered at National Convention. Because of our location, it is difficult to have the same sort of connection to other KDR's as our more closely situated Brothers on the east coast. Nevertheless, through contacts made at the National Convention and Western Conclave, we are expecting visitors from our closest neighbors early in the Fall!

Last spring, we welcomed into our ranks three intelligent and devoted gentlemen, who proudly represent the values of Kappa Delta Rho. These are the first who have experienced the newly-developed recruitment program known as The Path. The Path was specially developed by expert educators to focus on practical skills, traditions, and KDR values. We look forward to continuing the use of this valuable educational tool in the coming semesters.

Apart from house improvement and academic focus, our Brothers also spent time doing excellent philanthropy work. We have established a connection to the Lincoln Child Center in Oakland. Our work there was focused on helping to remodel the classrooms so they are fit for student use.

We hope to keep developing our relationship with LCL and establish a regular volunteering schedule for next semester. These efforts are targeted at creating a long-lasting partnership that will increase our investment in this worthwhile institution.

Finally, as we all know, this will be another fantastic football season for the Golden Bears. As per tradition, KDR will be hosting tailgating for home and away games. I highly encourage you to come by with your family and friends to celebrate with us. Please contact me pkula@berkeley.edu for information on parking and tailgating. Go Bears!

Fraternally,

Piotr sets the example by cleaning the house before a rush event.



Jason Rogers (Phi Beta), J.P. Brodd (Tau Alpha), and Christopher Shaffer on the 2009 KDR Wilderness Institute.

Member Spotlight: Christopher Shaffer

Christopher Shaffer is a third year Mechanical Engineering major from Burbank, California. Christopher went through recruitment in the spring of 2008. He said, "I chose to join KDR for two reasons. First, I was drawn to the brotherhood of KDR. I saw this fraternity as a tight-knit group of men from all backgrounds working together toward a common goal. I liked all of the brothers I met, and I was convinced I wanted to be part of this community. Second, I saw KDR as an opportunity for character building. KDR instills values in us and challenges us to hold to those values no matter the circumstances."

Christopher moved into the KDR house last fall. He said, "The part of living in the chapter house I like best is the sense of community. We work together to improve the house, put on events, and just hang out when we need something to do." Christopher was Praetor last spring and he will serve the chapter as Junior Tribune this fall. He said, "I'll be conducting the pledge process. While I will be adding some new ideas of my own, my main goal is to ensure that important traditions of the pledge semester are preserved."

When asked about how his membership has benefitted him, Christopher said, "I am the type of person who works hardest under pressure. While pledging KDR, I was forced to balance my studies with my commitments to the fraternity. Rather than let my grades suffer, I pushed myself even harder and managed to excel in both areas – my pledge semester ended up being my best semester GPA yet."

After graduating from Berkeley, Christopher plans to work as a mechanical engineer, then go back to school to obtain his master's degree. He then hopes to obtain a management position in an engineering firm. He added that he plans to remain involved as an alumnus and that he appreciates the support of Lambda alumni!

Join KDR on Facebook!

There is a facebook.com group called "KDR Rush Fall '09," where you can find updates about recruitment and upcoming events. So go ahead and join.

News & Notes

L. Clarke Aaronson '45 Retired 21 years, practiced in Bellevue, WA. Have 2 grown sons, 1 grown daughter, 4 grandchildren, ages 25, 21, 17, 13 and 2 great grandchildren, ages 3 years and 9 months. I enjoy hobbies such as fly fishing, golfing, and gardening. My wife and I have been married for 38 years. My age now is 86, and I am quite healthy. I remember my years at U.C. 1941-1943 fondly.

Brann Johnson '68 Grows wine grapes and peaches plus geological consulting. Retired from Texas A&M University after a 31 year tour as a geology and geophysics professor.

Perry L. Lange '78 Greetings from VA! I recently had the opportunity to visit the house this past January and got bend the ear of a few current brothers with numerous stories of "the old days". I filled them in on some of the details behind many of the signs in the basement bar and also told them a few tall tales concerning our glorious "Ski/Sled Run Party" of the 1970s... most of the stories were even

true! I am entering my 25th year at LifeNet Health, the transplant agency and human tissue bioengineering company in VA Beach. A personal highlight of the past year was my appearances as a company spokesperson on TV's "National Geographic" and the History Channel's "Modern Marvels". They did segments on the medical advancements we are making in regenerative medicine. I continue to seriously compete in triathlons and even won overall (at age 53) at a race in Maryland this past summer. I may be bald and wrinkled, but am still able to show the "kids" how it's done.

John D. Svoboda '85 Working on my 3rd start-up, all different industries. Life in Boulder, CO is good. Skiing, mountain biking, etc. Suburban quad-fecta: wife, 2 kids, dog, and station wagon.

Aziz M. Joudi '06 Brothers! Nimen hao? I miss the games and the grill. I've spent the last year in China. I absolutely love living (and getting

lost) here. Traveling, meeting people, and bar-hopping take up significant chunks of my time. But work undoubtedly takes care of most of it. I'm involved in business development and research for AmProtein. Suffice it to say that combined, our technology and business model has the potential to deliver biopharmaceutical drugs to market much quicker and at a reduced cost to patients. I appreciate our company's commitment to reducing the cost of biologics. We have a manufacturing plant in Hangzhou, which is only a \$10 bullet train ride away from Shanghai (awesome city btw). Look for our company in Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology News (April 2009).

Please send us YOUR updates – new job, recently married, won an award, etc. with photographs and we'll publish them in the next issue of the Lambda Lyre! Email your news and photos to kdr_lambda@ilgcampaigns.net or send them to our Lambda Alumni Relations Office; P.O. Box 80828; Atlanta, GA 30366.

UC Berkeley Hosts KDR Spring Alumni Dinner

By Vitaliy Belevich, '08

April 18, 2009 was a wonderful day, because weather was nice and warm. Perhaps, such amazing weather contributed to the warm and brotherly ambience of the KDR alumni dinner. KDR members from all walks of life, both alumni and undergraduate, convened yet again at the UC Berkeley Faculty Club. Brothers remembered their legacy, mingled with each other, and learned about new and past developments with the chapter. The yearly Alumni Board Elections also took place at the dinner.

The chapter recognized its most dedicated and hardworking members and alumni by giving awards. Piotr Kula received the Man of Honor award, which is the highest recognition given by this chapter. He received it because he deserved "all respect" for sticking through the challenges that the chapter had faced and for rising up to the difficulties during the spring semester. Travis Strong and Peter

Chea tied for the Most Improved Brother award. Their increased involvement improved the chapter as a whole. The Outstanding Alumni Commitment award was given to Alex Porto '01 for his wise guidance and concern for the chapter house. Thomas Evans-Pratt received the Best Pledge Award. Thomas worked hard when he was joining KDR and he accepted the recognition for his effort with a degree of humor.

Introductions were perhaps the most exciting part of the dinner. Some were serious, while others were humorous. Nevertheless, those present could sense the affection and the enthusiasm that the attendees had for the Lambda Chapter. Certainly, hearing advice and updates from our fellow brothers was inspiring and entertaining. If possible, all members' introductions would have been included here:

see **DINNER**, continued on page 4



Top: Alex Porto, Matt Panzer, and Joshua Clifton at the Spring Dinner. Bottom: Newest members meet KDR Legacy Ted Tronoff, center, with Magnus Otniem, left, and Kevin Weng, right.

Brother Aras

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of itself!”

Both Aras and his younger brother Aidas are Lambda KDRs. Their sister Daiva also attended Cal, and they have another, youngest, sister Daina. Aras said, “I don’t know why Aidas joined KDR – I never pushed him. I just told him to check out KDR but be open to what he wants to do. It has been my philosophy about everything. My family has always allowed everyone to choose their own path and no one is too judgmental, as long as things are going well. Things have gone really well!” Aras and his wife Kristina have a one year old son, Vidas.

Aras explained his studies and career path: “By my third year at Cal I had joined the Chamberlin lab in biochemistry of transcription. I was accepted into the joint MD/PhD program at the University of Illinois in the Medical Scholars program. After completing both degrees in 2007, I matched into the University of California San Francisco Pathology department residency program. I have joined a lab



at UCSF and will be working on liver Stem Cell development and modeling human disease. From there my plan is to establish myself as an independent professor and researcher. It is a long road, but rewarding!”

When asked about the KDR Motto, Honor Above All Things, Aras said, “The motto has always been clear to me. One should always do the right thing, because it is the right thing to do. I hope that in my life, I reflect the motto through my hard work, honor my family and friends and humanity by dedicating my work to them. I hope everyone can be proud of my work, my daily actions, and my dedication towards research for a better tomorrow.”

Spring Dinner Recap

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Ted Tronoff ‘48, who is still working as a Civil Engineer, deserves acknowledgement for his involvement in KDR. He has been present at every Alumni Banquet for years. He said that he enjoyed attending because they allowed him to observe how KDR can go through thick and thin. He said that during his college career he had enjoyed KDR the most. Ted said, “I am excited that the KDR system keeps going.” **Josh Clifton ‘00** confirmed that he had dropped out of the seminary for the second time. **Sean Healey ‘04** gave very profound advice to those present. He warned, “Stay out of accounting.” In addition, special recognition went to **Josh Chien ‘06** who will have finished his Master’s degree in Mechanical Engineering by the time you read this.

Doug Bell ‘64 remembered how his years in KDR were connected with the UC Berkeley history. Doug was in the undergraduate ROTC program at UC Berkeley when the Free Speech Movement came on the scene. After college, Doug served 22 years in the army. He now works for the County of Sacramento. Doug was amazed that men who are 20 to 30 years younger than him still shared the same fraternal bond. He called on the

active members to “Take advantage of the experience in the fraternity and stay in touch with other alumni.” Doug also asked us to remember Brother **Leonard Lepera ‘67** who had tragically passed away.

In keeping with tradition, the last word went to the newly initiated members. Kevin Weng, an engineering major, declared that his pledge semester had been the “funniest [sic] semester in college.” He concluded, “I am damn proud to be in KDR.”

The dinner was very successful. Attendees shared warm memories and laughs. Everyone could see that the chapter was persisting and persevering, despite the drawbacks of losing some active members, having a string of unsuccessful rushes, and having to deal with the deteriorating condition of the chapter house. It was great to observe how brotherly unity and traditions transcend the generations of KDR members. KDR, while remembering and honoring its past, strives to improve and grow. Alumni events reinforce members’ commitment to each other and to the organization as a whole by bringing us together to realize that we still share the same values and goals.

Alumni Update, *continued from page 1*



John AJ Ledoux, Benjamin Chaika, Daniel Keck, Aaron Burke, Steve Weis, and John Gray.

endeavor - there is much work to be done, but the end result can be a house that is livable, comfortable, and functional, and truly is the “home” of the Lambda Chapter. As we make progress and begin each step of this process, I will be keeping all of you updated regarding our efforts and what needs to be done. An initial renovation committee is now being formed; should you have experience with home renovations, architecture, or just a desire to provide support and input in this process, we would love to hear from you and help you get involved. You can contact me at AaronMBurke@gmail.com with any suggestions, ideas, or offers of support.

Now, in other news, by the time this issue arrives, the chapter house should have new carpet along the stairways and landings, new rain gutters and downspouts, additional smoke detectors wired in to a central system to provide a safer living environment for the actives, new lights in the living room, and new, modern windows in all three bathrooms (which will keep the bathrooms much warmer in the winter).

Lastly, our focus for this Fall’s alumni event will be for Homecoming, with a possibility of another event later in the year. **On October 3, the actives will be hosting an open house event prior to the 5:00 p.m. Cal vs. USC Homecoming football game.** Food, drinks, house and room tours and entertainment will be provided. All alumni are welcome to bring their families, and are welcome to stay and watch the football game on TV in the Lambda Chapter living room. I hope to see many of you there!

Fraternally,

Aaron Burke, ‘00
aaronmburke@gmail.com

Homecoming Reminder

Saturday, October 3rd
Cal vs. USC
KDR Open House
Prior to the 5 p.m. Kickoff