



Lambda Lyre

Lambda Chapter of Kappa Delta Rho | University of California, Berkeley | Winter 2008-09

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From the President

by Aaron Burke '00



Greetings! I hope the holidays were eventful, fun, and brought you and your families together in this season of giving.

I was able to spend time with a lot of friends and family members that I don't get to see as often as I would like. Seeing them after long periods always makes me appreciate the time we have spent together in the past and strengthens the bonds between us.

Even though I was able to see many friends, there are always others that are away, and I can't see. Lately I have tried to make it a priority to contact them in whatever way I can: by phone, email, or with a good old fashioned letter.

Do you have any old friends or acquaintances who you haven't heard from in years? Are there any KDR brothers you wish you could hear from? I encourage you to take steps to get back in contact with them.

You could also let other KDRs know what you are doing by sending in an update on you. We will include those updates in the Alumni news section of the next *Lambda Lyre*. I know I would love to hear from several of my "lost" brothers - some that I haven't heard from in years.

Speaking of news, we have a lot of chapter news

see **ALUMNI**, continued on page 4

KDR Goes Green

If you haven't noticed yet, things have been looking a little greener around the chapter house lately. It started last spring when Sophomore **Kia Hamzelou** sparked interest with some brothers to work in making our house more environmentally sustainable. He personally lobbied to create two new house positions, Sustainability Chair and House Gardener. Kia's actions have had more widespread implications: a newfound commitment of the brothers to creating sustainability throughout the Greek community at Cal.

As the first Sustainability Chair, Kia implemented a house-wide recycling program with the cash redemption proceeds going to buying school supplies for underprivileged children in the Philippines. Future plans for this position include composting organic waste such as food and biodegradable food containers.

While making the house sustainable was Kia's brainchild, many other brothers have also started thinking green. Sophomore **Timothy Maloney**, as House Manager, coordinated a project to plant a hedge of Japanese Boxwood shrubs in place of the railroad ties. **Constandinos Karras**, also a Sophomore, is working on constructing large box-planters for the South-facing 2nd floor deck and re-finishing some wood benches so that a once seldom-used deck can be reborn as a flourishing garden.

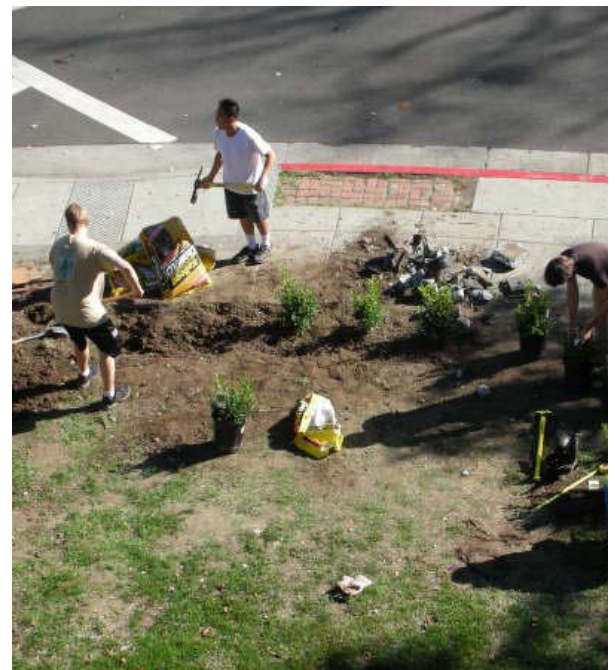
see **GREEN**, continued on page 4

Chapter and Brothers Recognized with Awards

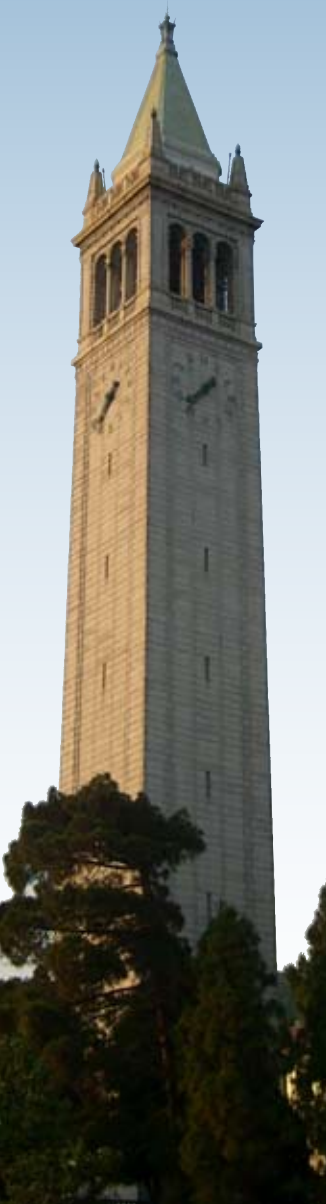
At the 2008 KDR National Convention, Lambda Chapter was honored with several awards, recognizing individuals as well as chapter accomplishments.

- ★ O.D. Roberts Award for Chapter Improvement
- ★ "Most Improved Chapter" award
- ★ Second Place - George E. Kimball Award for Outstanding Social Service
- ★ Recognition by the KDR Foundation for our support of the KDR Wilderness Institute with a donation of \$1,000.00
- ★ Ryan Roleson won an academic excellence scholarship
- ★ Ben Winston won the Lambda Chapter Scholarship

Congratulations to Ryan and Ben and to the men of Lambda Chapter for their efforts and recognitions.



Brothers work on the new row of hedges in front of the chapter house.



Chapter News

Words from the Consul *by Piotr Kula*



The 2008 Fall semester was one of hard work and well-deserved recognition. The brothers of Lambda Chapter started the semester energized and excited about the recognition our chapter received during National Convention this past August.

We were awarded the Most Improved Chapter Award for our efforts in the Greek Community, philanthropy, academics, and social service. Our service efforts were given additional acknowledgement, receiving the George E. Kimball Award for Social Service.

Additionally, we were recognized for our outstanding scholarship and high chapter GPA, receiving the "Greek Most Improved Chapter GPA" award.

With this well-deserved recognition urging us forward, we banded together this semester to work for the benefit of our community, our University, and our Chapter. Our participation in Greek-wide activities was unprecedented as we worked to firmly establish our name in the Greek Community.

Our Brothers worked diligently on a team with several other organizations throughout Greek Week and for the first time in many years, placed second. The

football game days this semester were extremely popular, as we teamed with other Greek organizations to co-host tailgate parties for actives and Alumni (thank you all that were there, see you again in the fall!)

Additionally, on Sundays and weekends without football games, our brothers volunteered in a variety of service projects including the massive Berkeley Project Day.

On the home front, we have focused on reconnecting with our Alumni base. The first Alumni-Actives brotherhood event was held at the house this past fall, and all who came had a great time. We will build on this tradition and hope to attract more alumni to this event, hosting it every semester from now on!

Our Alumni Banquet was held in San Francisco and helped to reconnect many different eras of Lambda. I urge everyone to come to both the banquet and the brotherhood event this spring!

We also spent time improving the house in an effort to make our common areas more organized and inviting. As stated in "KDR Goes Green" article, our sustainability efforts are continuing and we will continue to implement new ways to make our house more environmentally friendly and energy efficient.

see **LAMBDA**, *continued on page 4*



Lambda brothers have a bit of fun after collecting trash and other items at the Berkeley Marina.

Lambda Philanthropy

By Piotr Kula and Dominic Camacho

Although the frequent football game days of a fall semester generally interfere with planned philanthropic efforts, this semester the gentlemen of Lambda Chapter did not let this challenge keep us from giving service to our wonderful community. Early in the semester, before the pressures of academia encapsulated us, most of the brothers came out for a shoreline cleanup of the Berkeley Marina.

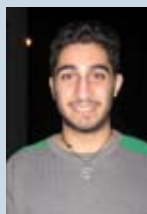
We spent the day socializing with the other student organizations there and picking up waste left by visitors. During the Greek-wide Greek Week outreach effort, we raised money for food banks and participated in Greek-wide service events. Brothers worked together with other Fraternities and Sororities on our team, building up our relationships in the Greek community.

Lambda Chapter also continued our tradition of participating in the Berkeley Project Day. In November, Lambda brothers made their way to East Berkeley to help renovate and paint a newly-established homeless shelter for youths. We worked together with other UC Berkeley volunteers, painting the sleeping commons and facilities at the shelter. At the end of a long day, our accomplishment was truly impressive. The repairs and fresh coat of paint gave the shelter a homey glow and we received sincere recognition from the shelter operators for our efforts.

Additionally, we participated in several smaller service projects, mostly aimed at benefiting our immediate community. These included an all-Greek clean-up after the Big Game (which we dominated!), as well as some individual service efforts by brothers. Philanthropy has continued to be an integral part of what it means to be a true KDR gentleman.

For the past couple of semesters, we have been increasing our emphasis on philanthropic activities. For the spring semester of 2009, we plan to continue that trend, including after school tutoring and peer counseling. Many brothers have already expressed interest in participating, and are eager to assist academically, develop healthy relationships, and serve as role models for local youth. If you are ever in the area and want to join us as we work to make our chapter, our campus and our community a better place to live, work and play, we would enjoy having you participate with us.

Member Spotlight: Kia Hamzelou



"I wanted to be a doctor my whole life," Sophomore Kia Hamzelou says. I took my first biology class this semester and it gave me a very different view of health and expanded my curiosity of "what we are". With a 3.72 GPA this semester, it is safe to say that Kia, a Molecular and Cell Biology major, did his part in helping KDR maintain a high standing in academics in the Greek community.

In addition, Kia exuberates a creative vibe of his own: he is a member of a campus quartet, playing the viola; can often be found improving his yoga techniques; and wants to paint more, decorating his room and expressing himself. "I like the fact that KDR is a group of true friends you can express yourself with in almost any way: either through socializing with the brothers, philanthropy, and practicing general virtues and honor—and all these friends are there doing it with you," he says.

KDR has offered Kia support for his opinions and ideas, even if farfetched - "that is what makes brotherhood different than other friendships." Moreover, the brothers in the house stand for values in the world that he respects: those of individuality and man's self-determination, which are ideas that the fraternity was founded on. In decades to come, he looks forward to being a part of Lambda Chapter and alumni events.

News & Notes

Aras N. Mattis '98 has completed his PhD and his MD and is now doing his residency in Pathology.

Byron K. Wood '63 has retired as president of the rocket dyne division of Boeing.

Samuel T. Merrell's '66 daughter, Ashley, graduated from Loyola Marymount University with accounting and marketing degrees and is working for Price Waterhouse Coopers

Richard G. Davis '65 started a business with two of my three sons. We make catheters for babies, newborns, and preemies. I have 3 grown and married sons, 10 grandchildren ranging from 3 to 21 years old. My wife of 42 years, Linda, is a retired high school English teacher.

John B. Hendricks '65 retired in 1/07 after 28 years in banking. Enjoying the "good life" in Southern Cal. Go Bears!

Fall 2008 Alumni Dinner Hits a Homerun!

The 2008 Lambda Chapter Alumni dinner took place in the historic Acme Chop House on Willie Mays Plaza next to AT&T Ball Park in San Francisco. This great KDR tradition continued in a place filled with baseball pride and legacy; it definitely added to the fraternal atmosphere and filled each of us with KDR honor. Adding to that, young and old, we all shared a common bond of being members of our great organization and were able to share significant accomplishments with each other.

Last year our chapter lived up to our motto "Honor Above All Things." Chapter president, Rick Nguyen, was happy to announce that Lambda received numerous awards at the 97th National Convention in Toledo, Ohio. Those awards, highlighted on the front page, are a testament to the calibre of young men we are recruiting.

We give them hearty congratulations on their accomplishments. Additionally, Rick stated that our chapter is not going to stop at these achievements, but to continue growing and improving to become

the best fraternity on campus and nationally.

At the end of the evening Alumni President Aaron Burke reported on the continuing work that alumni do in bettering the chapter. He was followed by the reports from other alumni association officers. The dinner commenced with the traditional introductions of every guest followed by desert. It was truly enjoyable to see KDR's getting together and sharing this memorable experience.

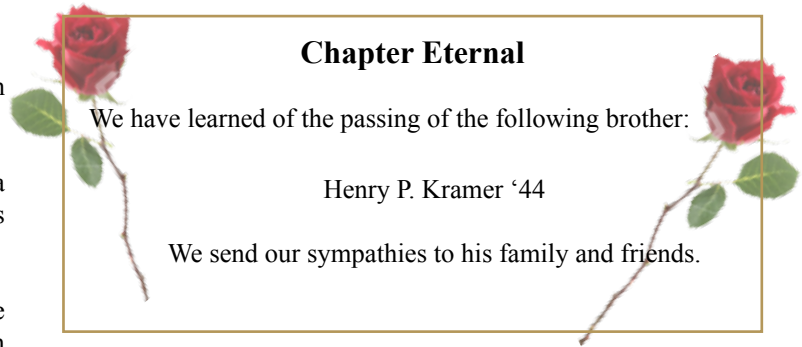


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Lambda Chapter

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This coming spring semester will be focused primarily on membership recruitment. In order to continue our growth in academics, service, and our community, we must recruit more outstanding students to join the ranks of Kappa Delta Rho. To facilitate new techniques in recruitment and organization, a Leadership Consultant from the National Fraternity will visit early this semester.

Additionally, we will continue to reach out to you, in hopes of strengthening the alumni support that is so necessary for a successful Fraternity. I encourage all Alumni who read this newsletter to get in touch with us and visit during the spring. With guidance from the National Fraternity, the University, and our own Alumni, Lambda chapter of Kappa Delta Rho will continue to flourish in the Greek community and will keep on transforming the young men of UC Berkeley into true Gentlemen. Honor Super Omnia!

Going Green

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However, as with all major plans for changes in an organization, there is a learning curve involved. We tried to capitalize on a solar energy paneling pilot program spearheaded by the City of Berkeley. Ultimately it was unsuccessful despite Junior **Piotr Kula's** persistent efforts. Said Piotr, "While our application was not one of the 20 accepted by the City, if their program is successful and they expand the offer to include other applicants we can certainly be the first fraternity in Berkeley with solar paneling."

Piotr's comments also illustrate another important point: the Greek community at Cal has been slow to act in response to growing environmental awareness as compared to their on-campus and student cooperative housing counterparts. Which is exactly why the current generation of Lambda Chapter actives have made promoting sustainability throughout the Greek community a primary goal.



Brother Kia Hamzelou working on the hedge planting in front of the chapter house.

Chapter Academics A Priority

by Ryan Roleson

“There are three things you can do during college,” someone once told me. “You can have a social life, study, or sleep—but you can only do two of them well.” Since our studies mark the original reason for going to college, and also because socializing in college can take on a life of its own, sleep has been the traditional sacrifice of the university years.

Whether it is a result of pulling repeated all-nighters in order to catch up on homework or whether those all-nighters began with a can of beer the previous evening, sleep tends to sit by the sidelines while the rest of college life is played out on the field. Yet just like paying too little attention to school makes us dread the next midterm, and inadequate time socializing can deprive us of the social skills needed in the professional realm, sleep-deprivation, too, has its consequences.

We as students find ourselves bouncing between activities, trying sometimes in desperation simply to maintain a bare minimum of activity in each of these three dimensions of college life. What can we do in order to find a balance, especially as we prepare ourselves for “the real world”?

This past fall, Lambda's scholarship activities focused on just that—balance. Based on the idea that study skills require strong overall personal management, we created activities aimed at learning to integrate all aspects of student life. Those three aspects described above, dramatically interact and affect each other; balance is needed to perform

well, and this in turn requires that we organize ourselves efficiently.

As during the previous semester, brothers created presentations on subjects related to study skills and personal management. Yet unlike the spring, our fall program took as its guide the celebrated book *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, by Stephen Covey. Incorporating material discussed therein, brothers designed group activities to go along with presentations. Often in discussion format, activities focused on topics such as weekly prioritizing and goal setting.

Additionally, brothers made topics relevant to fraternity life, providing another format to improve the workings of our brotherhood. Underlying our activities was a feeling of control over the many things a college student does, opposed to letting ourselves rocket between them in a disorganized effort to ‘do it all’. Above all, we emphasized that improvements in one area of our lives requires improvements in all, as each is connected to the others.

Bearing in mind the central importance of studying, yet also remembering that every student participates in a variety of activities in college, our Fall scholarship program focused on efficient self-organization; for not only will we be more effective in the three areas mentioned above, but we will also be more prepared for when we have to balance more than these three activities.

Alumni Update

continued from page 1

to share and I hope you will enjoy reading about our undergraduate brothers and their efforts in this issue, including recent awards and recognitions that have been received by both the chapter and individual members.

Additionally, we have begun the early stages of planning for a long-term (and much needed) renovation of the chapter house. Over the last ten years or so we have been able to make many upgrades to the infrastructure of the building, including many necessary improvements for health and safety.

However, in order to secure Lambda Chapter's long-term future we will need to make significant renovations to our 80-year-old chapter house. As we move forward with plans, I will make sure to keep everyone well informed of our progress.

Finally, the last thing I want to mention that the Spring alumni dinner will be held on a Saturday and we will be welcoming guests to the event. That means you are invited (but by no means required) to bring along a guest or a date to the event, should you choose. You will be able to see the full details of the event in the included invitation. I am looking forward to an evening of seeing old faces, meeting some new ones, and having a great time.

Thanks everyone for reading and I hope you enjoy the Lyre!

Aaron Burke