



# Lambda Lyre

Lambda Chapter of Kappa Delta Rho Fraternity | University of California, Berkeley | Summer 2008

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

## From the President *by Aaron Burke '00*



Welcome back to the *Lambda Lyre*! It has been a few years since we last published, and during the interim it has been a time of transition. After much deliberation, we decided to work with a new publishing company, The Laurus Group, for our newsletters. We hope you enjoy the new, full-color format.

One thing that I have come to believe very strongly in is the importance of communication within an alumni organization.

It is my sincere hope that this *Lambda Lyre* and others in the semesters to come will reinforce the ties of Kappa Delta Rho, remind us of why we joined and reconnect us to our own experiences by seeing KDR through the eyes of the actives and hearing their stories.

For me, the Kappa Delta Rho experience was about learning how to grow as a person socially, trying to understand different people and their differing points of view and learning how to manage a small organization of people who very often didn't want to do exactly the same things I did with the fraternity. We were never able to get things perfectly right, but we never got them completely wrong, and in that experimenting, working together, messing up, and then fixing things, I gained valuable insight that serves me today and has helped me to become what I hope is a more complete man.

In the coming semesters we will be reaching out to some of you and asking you to give back a little bit. Whether that be in sharing stories of your time in the fraternity, sharing what you are doing in life now, coming back to the chapter house and giving a lecture (I'll talk more about this later) or by donating to the Annual Fund, please know that anything and everything is appreciated!

I would also like to share some announcements with you for the upcoming year. For those of you who come to football games, you may have noticed two things in recent years. First, the lawn was rented out to one group for every game last year and for many games in previous years. That severely limited the chapter's ability to have parking spots for alumni. That has changed; the lawn will no longer be rented out to an outside group. Spaces will now be available on a first-come, first-serve basis the day of the game and any alumnus wishing to reserve a spot ahead of time can do so by contacting the fall Consul, **Hiep Nguyen**, at [hiepn1@gmail.com](mailto:hiepn1@gmail.com). Second, and partly as a consequence of renting out the whole lawn lot, there was less emphasis placed by the active brotherhood on creating an exciting game day atmosphere at the chapter house. The active brothers have told me they will be working hard in the fall to make sure that visiting the chapter house on game days is a must, but they need your support for this, because without alumni there the experience isn't the same. So please drop by for the Michigan State game on

see **ALUMNI**, continued on page 4

## Lambda Alumnus Travels to Antarctica

*by Ming Fang '03*

Antarctica, aka Terra Incognita, the fifth largest continent, covers 10 percent of the earth's land surface and holds 70 percent of the world's freshwater. Every year, around 5,000 scientists and tourists set foot on Antarctica.

Last December, 31 Wharton School of Business students had the opportunity to become some of the few who participate in the Antarctica Leadership Venture, I was fortunate enough to be one of them. On December 26th, we landed on King George Island of the Antarctica Peninsula, which is simultaneously claimed by Chile, Venezuela, and Britain. Thanks to the 1961 Antarctic Treaty System, Antarctica is designated as the land for mankind's peaceful missions. Thus, science bases of nine different countries reside on the continent.

For the next eight days and seven nights ("night" never actually came, as the sun still lingered on the horizon at 3 a.m.), we lived outdoors on frozen tundra, with temperatures averaging in the mid 20s. With tent-breaking wind, sideways rain and feather-sized snowstorms, the temperature was in the low 10s. You might say it sounds miserable, but we had the most amazing experience to date.

Our daily activities included hiking and camping. Our goal was to explore the island on foot and circumnavigate the majority of the continent in eight days. Excluding the two daring venture fellows, Ashley and Guillaume, we grouped ourselves into teams of six, which were further divided into teams of three. The daily routine consisted of waking up early, fetching fresh glacial aqua, eating hot oatmeal before it turned cold within a minute, breaking apart tents, shouldering 30+ pound backpacks, gearing up snowshoes, blazing

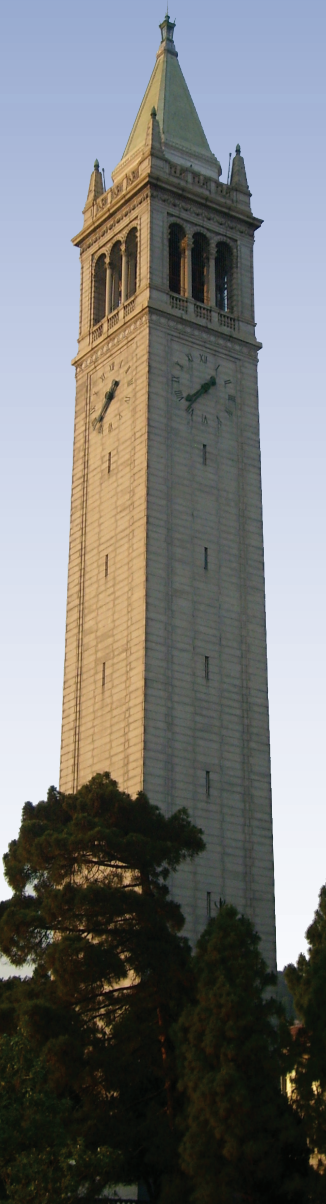
see **MING**, continued on page 4



Alumnus Ming Fang '03 traveled to Antarctica with 30 other Wharton School of Business students.

### In This Issue:

- From the President ..... 1
- Antarctica Travels ..... 1
- From the Consul..... 2
- Wilderness Institute..... 2
- Lambda Philanthropy ..... 2
- News & Notes ..... 3
- Education Workshops .... 3



# Chapter News

## Words from the Consul *by Ben Winston*



This past year can be characterized with one simple word: achievement. Nothing spells success in the Greek community quite like recruitment, and that is precisely what we did. The smell of freshmen pledges has filled the air at Lambda Chapter, as we transformed 11 promising men into 11 Kappa Delta Rho gentlemen warriors. In total, we finished the academic year with 26 active brothers and we'll be starting next year with 21 – our highest starting number in over a decade. Our newest brothers earned a combined GPA of over 3.5 last semester – well-above the all-Cal average of 3.3.

Inside the chapter house, the accomplishments continue. Re-painting projects have replaced dirty-looking hallway walls with two brilliant shades of color. New lights and Exit signs on all three floors add to the positive atmosphere

that engulfs the rest of the building, drawing compliments from dozens of visitors. Continued improvements are what build a legacy. Last semester we participated in multiple non-profit events, including but not limited to: a beautification assignment at Malcolm X Elementary school in West Oakland, the massive “Berkeley Project” and our renowned nonprofit Halloween Haunted House for little kids. We have been a part of multiple sorority community service events like Kappa Kappa Gamma’s karaoke night and Chi Omega’s poker tournament. For the second year in a row we held our very own Ca\$ino Night, which earned enough proceeds to finance a KDR team for the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life.

With our membership and reputation increasing at such a rate, it is no wonder that more and more prospective members are inquiring about pledging KDR.

see **LAMBDA**, *continued on page 3*

## Wilderness Institute: Conquest of the Rockies

*by Hiep Nguyen*

*Note: Hiep attended the KDR Wilderness Institute in 2007. During the 2008 Wilderness Institute Constandinos Karras attended. The Wilderness Institute is sponsored through a grant from the KDR Foundation.*

Imagine yourself on top of the Rockies, 11,000 feet above sea level, with the temperature fluctuating from below-zero to 30 degrees. Adding to the challenge, you are hiking uphill eight miles a day and carrying a 50 pound backpack. You have to find shelter, water, and make food. It’s you against nature; however, you are not alone. You are with seven

other brothers from different chapters all across the nation, two survival experts, and two of Kappa Delta Rho’s alumni advisors.

The most powerful aspect of the Wilderness Institute is how it builds up the tremendous sense of camaraderie. In the beginning, we were eight random guys who formed a group. At the end, we became a team capable of overcoming the challenge of nature. The group became a team through working together fighting against the sheer ruthlessness of nature, through the shared value of Kappa Delta Rho and the common quest to better ourselves and our fraternity.

The Wilderness Institute was a great place to learn leadership. Each day, two brothers volunteered to lead the group. The challenge of leadership consists of planning for logistics (how far we march, water sources, making food, etc.) and motivating brothers. Looking back on the experience, I realize that true leadership is inspiration. A true leader must inspire his men with common values and purpose,

see **INSTITUTE**, *continued on page 4*



*Brothers performed several service projects throughout the year including the “Berkeley Project,” which included students cleaning up areas throughout San Francisco.*

## Lambda Philanthropy

*by Simon Grille*

In the fall 2007, the Lambda chapter transformed its chapter house into a “haunted house” for the enjoyment of Oakland school children. We covered all the windows with trash bags to ensure total darkness, blocked off all points that light might enter the house and we created a maze filled with Halloween decorations. We also had points where brothers stood waiting to scare the children as they passed. Next, we carefully selected a play list of eerie sounds in order to ensure the proper ambiance and once the children survived the maze, we gave them plenty of candy and sent them on their way.

Although the Greek community sponsors and encourages creating an atmosphere like this, not every house participates. We are proud to boast that we participate every year, and continually win recognition for having the “best haunted house”. The kids love it and the Greek community certainly respects our dedication to exceed expectations year after year. KDR brothers do all the work designing and building the house and actively participate on the day of the event, creating a scary environment as the children walk through. The design and construction usually takes at least two days, and hosting the event lasts for about 4 to 5 hours. Whether it was building the haunted house or dressing up and scaring the children on the day of the event, 100 percent of the house participated in this event.

Although the Haunted House is perhaps the most popular of our philanthropic events, the Lambda chapter brothers also participated in two other social service events. First, brothers joined thousands of other Berkeley students for the “Berkeley Project.” This event sent students to San Francisco to work for a day in the lesser developed areas of the city. Brothers either planted entire gardens from scratch or painted walls in desperate need of aesthetic attention. Second, brothers took a trip to Malcolm X Elementary School to devote an entire day to landscaping work. We joined other Greeks to completely transform the entire schoolyard. In one day’s work, we transformed the appearance of their campus by removing weeds, planting potted plants and trees, and removing large amounts of hazardous trash.

The brothers look forward to participating in similar events in the upcoming year.



*The 2008 KDR Wilderness Institute participants. (Lambda Brother Constandinos Karras – first man kneeling on left).*



# News & Notes

## Educational Workshops Strive to Produce Well-Balanced KDR Gentlemen

In the fall 2007, the Lambda Chapter introduced a new program to foster alumni/active interaction and to provide younger members with some useful life skills. The idea behind this program was to bring in an alumnus once every 2-3 weeks throughout the semester to present on a useful skill set that brothers don't always learn in college, such as how to interview well, basic finances and even how to tie a tie.

"Well I would have liked a weight-lifting seminar," fall-semester pledge **Daniel Ruiz** said. This garners some agreement and consensus – health and fitness being very important issues that every man should concern himself with. Daniel's thoughtful input is the kind of thinking that embodies the two-hour visits by some of the younger alumni – who can give back, if they are producing educational leadership in the house. They are walking the walk on our concepts of 'service, fellowship, tradition, leadership and scholarship'. "It was a chance to get to know my fraternity better," said **Kia Hamzelou**, this being his first semester at Cal, following up with "I got to meet older people who have gone through KDR.

"My favorite was the one where we learned to wear a suit – that was my favorite," said Ali Irani referring to Alumni board President **Aaron Burke's '00** 'Dress to Impress' presentation incorporating interactive hands-on learning. After this workshop, everyone went away feeling more confident. Fall pledge **Peter Chea** aided Burke with his Windsorting experience. Peter said, "I'm just glad I won't have to tie half the brothers' ties anymore"

Overall, the only constructive criticisms were active brother preparedness for the workshops – though an impressive turnout of at least 75 percent of the actives also enjoyed adding to their social and career repertoire. The brothers, in general, found the resume and job application discussion the most useful – with facilitator **Ty Lim '04** sending digital examples and offering additional advice on a case by case basis. The most notes and questions were probably directed during **Navid Sohrabi's '02** session that addressed investing and playing your cards right, and was very motivational to some of the brothers since Navid is a science major turned currency trader. He is a living example of the 'you can do anything you set your mind to' message.

Fall semester Consul **Jon Mazzeo** showed his support at every one of the meetings. The brains behind the workshops, Aaron, is excited to continue the program in subsequent semesters. If you would like to present a workshop, please contact Aaron at [aaronmburke@gmail.com](mailto:aaronmburke@gmail.com). The Lambda chapter indeed will continue to differentiate itself and help its brothers grow as men.



Lambda Brothers volunteer at the Malcolm X Elementary School.

## In Memoriam

In January 2008, Brother **William J. Morgan '62** passed away. Brother Morgan made a generous donation to the Lambda Chapter of Kappa Delta Rho, and posthumously bequeathed the sum of \$30,000 to the chapter. The members and alumni of the Lambda Chapter would like to offer their sincere condolences to the family of Mr. Morgan, and would like to acknowledge his generosity and contribution to the fraternity.

## Leave a KDR Legacy

Many dedicated brothers often ask: "How can I include Kappa Delta Rho in my estate plans? Below are three examples of how to do this.

### WILL:

Sample: "I leave the sum of \$XXX,XXX to Lambda of Kappa Delta Rho, tax ID # (94-1165985), c/o the National Fraternity of Kappa Delta Rho and insert address, for their general purposes" OR, "I leave XX% of my estate (or the residuary of my estate) to Lambda of Kappa Delta Rho, tax ID # (xxxxxxx), c/o the National Fraternity of Kappa Delta Rho and insert address, for their general purposes"

LIFE INSURANCE: Name the House Corporation as a beneficiary of all or a percentage of the proceeds of your life insurance policy. Simply complete a change of beneficiary form.

RETIREMENT PLAN: Name the House Corporation/Alumni Association as a beneficiary of all or a percentage of the proceeds of your IRA or 401(k). Simply designate the beneficiary on the proper forms.

## Lambda Chapter

*continued from page 2*

In April, Kappa Delta Rho's Executive Director flew all the way from Greensburg, PA to UC Berkeley just to meet with us and discuss further advancements. As with any other strong organization, we cannot succeed alone; above all else, we need the help and support of our alumni. WE NEED YOU!

Come drop by the house next semester during Cal Football games to spend an incredible afternoon in your chapter house and cheer-on the mighty Golden Bears. Parking is cheap and our location is even better. Leave your worries behind and enjoy some free BBQ, beverages and entertainment. Reminisce with us about some of the best experiences you had as an active brother at KDR, and we'll be there to do the same. One fight, one team; dominate the rest! Honor Super Omnia!

## Ming *continued from page 1*

the trail to the next destination and setting up camp.

Every part of this routine was filled with exquisite surprises. Fetching water became an exercise of leaping over breaking ice layers. Trekking on terrain without snow turned into ventures with muddy quicksand. When approaching wildlife, we tried not to make sudden movements, or else the alpha male would charge, especially the sea lions. Most important of all, when we were cooking with gas canisters, we kept them away from open flames; it would have made one hell of a firework, but a poor shave.

Not everything was that extreme. Cute and cuddly penguins waddled amidst our campgrounds, extracting puppy love sighs all around. People bonded through intimate chats inside the tents, deceptive card games and daily constructive debriefs, but most important, was that all 31 Whartonites saw a glacier in white-out conditions on New Year's Day. To celebrate, four of us took a dip in the Antarctic Ocean, and yes, it was really cold.

While having fun, we gained valuable lessons from the theme of the venture and leadership training. Everyday, a teammate was designated as the "Leader of The Day," responsible for: communicating information from the guides, ensuring people's mental and

## Institute *continued from page 2*

not threats to take off house points.

In addition to leadership skills, we learned how to run our chapter more efficiently. We exchanged practices that work best for four chapters. The group was diverse in experience and each man was probably best at what he did. I loved talking to them, and learned so much just from talking with each of them. We talked about party ideas, risk management, rush, philanthropy and the idea of voting by consensus, some I brought home with me to share with the chapter.

I learned a lot about myself during and after the trip. The instructors frame the trip as a hero's journey, one in which a man goes away from his "tribe", conquers his demons, and goes back to the "tribe" to spread the new knowledge he learned. One of the big pluses of the Wilderness Institute is the solo experience. Each

physical well-being (excluding the "blue-bagging" situation) and leading the group from point A to B. Although we had professional guides from Vertical SA, two of whom had climbed Mts. Everest and Lotsi, we relied on ourselves during every aspect of the trip.

During treks, each group had its own GPS and maps. It was up to the team leaders to navigate, communicate and bring the team safely to the designated location. The team guide interfered only if we approached danger. And there were some of those moments. When the terrain became difficult, the weather turned nasty, or the day went by too slowly, it was up to the team leaders to motivate and keep everyone in good spirits.

Although our voyage was difficult, we were not the only ones who faced difficult situations in Antarctica. There are approximately 2,000 scientists stationed on Antarctica who live a difficult life. Those with winter posts have to stay on-site for an entire year. During winter months, they are prohibited from leaving the buildings, given the eternal darkness and killer blizzards. They do manage to have a good time though; we had a memorable New Year's Eve bash with the Uruguay science station. We accessed not only their beverage stocks and flushable facilities, but also their scientific knowledge. Global warming, according to the Antarctic scientists, is irrefutable.



*The KDR Wilderness Institute, sponsored by the KDR Foundation brings chapter leaders together on a hike through the Rocky Mountains.*

brother found a place away from the group, passed a day and night there alone without food, and meditated. My questions were "How do I bring glory to KDR?" and "What is my purpose in life?" By the end of the solo experience, I had answers and a deep sense of conviction to carry those plans out.

I loved being on top of the Rockies. It was the greatest educational experience I've ever had.

## SAVE THE DATES . . .

August 30: Football Opening Game  
Cal vs. Michigan State

**October 3-5: Homecoming Weekend  
Stop by the chapter house.**

Events and info TBA, stay tuned!

October 24: Alumni Banquet

October 25: Cal vs. UCLA football

## Alumni *continued from page 1*

August 30th. Kickoff is scheduled for 5 p.m., so there will be plenty of time to get to the chapter house early and enjoy the August weather and the atmosphere of a new school year and football season.

We started a new program last fall which we've taken to calling KDR Life Skills. The basis for this is the idea that alumni who have expertise in certain areas come and give a lecture on a topic of their choice for the pledges. I believe it is a great way to add value to the experience of being in KDR, and it is a fun way for alumni to see what the active brothers are like. Please take a look at the featured story on it in this copy of the *Lyre*. If you would like to participate, please contact me at [aaronmburke@gmail.com](mailto:aaronmburke@gmail.com).

Next, the National Fraternity has started a program called the KDR Wilderness Institute. A limited number of young active men are chosen each year to attend this program, and spend several days in difficult wilderness conditions, developing leadership and a greater sense of self. The program is sponsored by the KDR Foundation and the Lambda Chapter donated \$1,000 this year in support of the program. We have been fortunate enough to have a member chosen to attend for the last two years. Hiep Nguyen, the fall Consul, attended in 2007, and Constandinos Karras attended this summer. I think it will be a great program moving forward and another way that Kappa Delta Rho is helping to develop quality men.

Finally, I want to thank each and every one of you who have generously donated to the Lambda chapter over the years. In order to better recognize those who donate to our Annual Fund, we have created giving societies. Those people who donated this spring have been recognized on the back of the letter that accompanied the *Lyre*. We will continue to recognize those who donate in the future. It is through your donations that we are able to publish this newsletter, so, again, I hope you enjoy it and thank you!

Faternally,

Aaron Burke '00

[aaronmburke@gmail.com](mailto:aaronmburke@gmail.com)