

A Jeffersonian Fraternity? Discovering Our Libertarian Roots

Are fraternities just reactionary bastions of male privilege and boyish adolescent hijinks? Are fraternities irrelevant to the challenges of the 21st century or, worse, obstacles to imagining and constructing a better world? These questions seem so over-the-top, so disproportionate to whatever “threat” fraternities really present today, that they can be much too easily dismissed. “Get over it,” you might appropriately respond: we’ve been taking hits ever since the 1960s (and before then, too) and—somehow—we keep bouncing back. It’s obvious, too, that I wouldn’t choose this venue, or, to be more accurate, Jon Vick wouldn’t have asked me to write this essay, if I’d intended to launch yet another rhetorical assault on our brotherhood. Instead, I want to do two things: first, offer a justification for fraternity that goes beyond knee-jerk defensiveness or, worse, smug complacency about “boys being boys”; second, I want to say a few words about the need both for institutional oversight and a sense of tradition.

If we look back to the Age of Revolutions that transformed the world in the late 18th century, “fraternity” takes on a decidedly different—indeed, a revolutionary and world-changing—cast. Thomas Jefferson was the great theorist of revolutionary brotherhood in America: he believed that consensual, affectionate, and enlightened bonds among liberty-loving Americans represented a fundamental break with the hierarchy, inequality, corruption, and oppression of the old regime. Before the advent of the new American republics, Jefferson wrote (shortly before his death in 1826) that it was the conventional wisdom that “the mass of mankind” was “born with saddles on their backs” and that the “favored few”—monarchs and aristocrats—were entitled “to ride them legitimately, by the grace of God.” But men had now been taught to “burst the chains” of “monkish ignorance and superstition” and “assume the blessings and security of self-government.” Governing themselves, individuals would not only pursue their own happiness (as fraternity brothers tend to do, with wild abandon), but the new republics they formed would achieve great purposes collectively and so promote the progress of the human race. “All eyes are opened, or opening, to the rights of man,” Jefferson exulted, as “the general spread of the light of science” initiated a new and enlightened age.

The libertarian Jefferson is alive and well in our collective consciousness today. What’s dangerously missing is the other Jefferson, the



Thomas Jefferson

Jefferson who taught that men (and women, of course) are naturally sociable, that “nature hath implanted in our breasts a love of others, a sense of duty to them, a moral instinct.” We have our sacred, inviolable natural rights as individuals, but the point of “bursting the chains” that have bound us is not so that we can retreat to our isolated castles and riot in solipsistic luxury. That, after all, is precisely what the “royal savages” who governed the Old World did, at the expense of their subjects. Is democracy nothing more than universalized monarchy? Jefferson thought not. His credo was, “divide in order to unite,” for only people who were secure in their rights could risk coming closer together and thus fulfill their sociable natures—and their purpose on earth—without falling prey to the rapacious and power hungry among them. Jefferson’s vision was thus profoundly and fundamentally anti-Hobbesian, not a nightmarish, never-ending struggle of all



Convention delegates tour UVA campus, established by Jefferson in 1826 (just a few years before Samuel Eells founded Alpha Delta Phi in 1832).

against all, but rather of freely formed and ever more perfect unions. It was, in short, a vision of transcendent fraternity.

But Jefferson did not think this progress would be spontaneous. The inborn “moral sense” was a capacity, not a guarantor, of moral development. Jefferson’s anxiety about the failure to develop that capacity explains his obsessive concern with education. It also explains the connection, in his personal as well as his political life, with literary expression, for it was only through communication with others—in what Jefferson and his contemporaries called “the republic of letters”—that men could learn to exercise their reason and make something of themselves. Self-fashioning, paradoxically, was thus an intensely social process. Fraternity—the associational impulse—thus had a critical literary dimension: men transcend their isolation, and they fulfill their potential through words. Does this sound familiar?

For whatever reasons, Samuel Eells and his fellow founders embraced a Jeffersonian conception of literary fraternity—not, I can assure

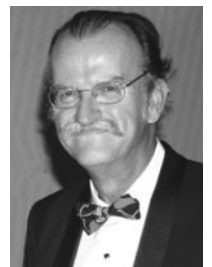
you, because they considered themselves “Jeffersonian.” The associational impulse that so impressed Alexis de Tocqueville was ubiquitous in Jacksonian America, particularly in the North, where population was relatively dense and enterprising young men so earnestly sought to improve themselves and their world. But Jefferson, more influentially than anyone else in the founding generation, glimpsed the enormous potential of the new republican spirit to revolutionize civil society as well as forms of government.

Lest this brief essay be read simply in a self-congratulatory spirit, let me conclude with a couple of important caveats. The “literary fraternity” may have a revolutionary pedigree, but it can only fulfill its ends if it, in the spirit of Jefferson’s moral sense, looks beyond itself, toward some higher end. Of course, sociability is its own reward, as we know so well. Yet we have to ask ourselves if this particular association enables us to achieve more enduring and substantial rewards, not just for us, but for the larger world.

This leads me to a final, cautionary note. As an aging brother, decades removed from the joys of fraternity life, it’s clear to me that our literary tradition is the best hope we have for sustaining a serious engagement with the world. Let me be blunt: hormone-crazed party animals in a world of their own will not spontaneously generate higher, more progressive levels of enlightened sociability. A valuable antidote to this problem can be found in the cross-generational links that our chapters foster (and to be fair, the learning can go both ways). But it’s also important that the national organization sustain a sense of tradition and provide the framework for “a more perfect union” of chapters. With all due Jeffersonian deference to chapter autonomy, the national organization makes it possible for brothers to expand their imaginative reach and social consciousness in their very own “republic of letters.” Of course, I can’t prescribe or predict what purposes will be served; anything I might say would in any case (and appropriately) be counter-suggestive. I will assert, however, and with Jefferson’s authority, that the capacity for enlightened sociability can be nurtured and fulfilled in our chapters.

And if they don’t, in some small way, contribute to the progress of ongoing enlightenment that Jefferson envisioned, they are, indeed, just pointless anachronisms.

Peter S. Onuf, JH ’67
UVA Thomas Jefferson
Professor of History



Peter S. Onuf

The 2005 Seward Scholarships Announced

The Samuel Eells Literary and Educational Foundation (SELEF) announced the winners of the 2005 Seward Scholarships during the banquet of the 173rd Convention hosted by the Virginia Chapter. This continues a near century-long tradition of the Alpha Delta Phi awarding the Seward to undergraduate members who go above and beyond for their chapters, while maintaining strong academic standing.

The Seward Scholarships began when Brother Clarence A. Seward, Geneva Chapter, 1848 (Hobart College), left the fraternity a bequest to fund scholarships for academic achievements and contributions to the Alpha Delta Phi. It was Brother Seward's hope that this would encourage each brother to maintain a strong academic standing and also to remain an active Alpha Delt throughout his college years.

Brother Seward was president of the fraternity from 1890 to 1897, and he presented the jeweled president's badge that is still used today. The Samuel Eells Literary and Educational Foundation took over the funding and management of the scholarships 25 years ago to allow alumni to make tax-deductible donations to continue financing Seward's legacy.

Seward Scholarships are awarded annually to members of Alpha Delta Phi on the basis of

academic achievement and contribution to their individual chapters and the International. Scholarships are awarded only to full time students and must be used to meet direct educational expenses such as room, board, tuition, and books. The scholarships range from \$500 to \$1,000 and are awarded on a competitive basis. A student seeking a Seward Scholarship should prepare the application personally. He must also have the college provide an official transcript to confirm strong academic standing. The Seward Scholarship committee will also contact an applicant's brothers to determine his contribution to his chapter.

The 2005 Seward Scholarship winners are:

James Moore, ADEL '07
Alison Errico, BRN '06
Michelle Mendard, BRN '06
Patrick Kavanagh, COR '07
Tyler Wunder, ILL '07
Steven Frankel, MEM '06
Eric Gottesman, MEM '06
Brigid Shaw, MID '06
Nick Ellering, MINN '07
Adam Baldauf, OTC '06

Each of these deserving Alpha Delt will be receiving a check for \$600 from the

foundation in December.

Applications for the 2006 Seward Scholarships are now being accepted. All undergraduates who will be full-time students and active members of their local chapters during the 2006-2007 academic year are invited to apply. The official application and more information is available on the fraternity's website under "Scholarships." All applications must be received by June 16, 2006. The 2006 Seward Scholarship winners will be announced at the 174th Convention in Boston, August 2006.

It is only through continued interest and financial support that we are able to keep Seward's legacy alive. If you will be an undergraduate during the 2006-2007 academic year, please apply and encourage your brothers to apply. If you are an alumnus, please make a tax-deductible contribution to the Samuel Eells Literary and Educational Foundation today so that we can continue to award the Seward Scholarship to generations of Alpha Delt to come.

Thomas M. Clark, BDN '99

Thomas Clark became a member of the Samuel Eells Literary and Educational Foundation Board in 2004. He is also the president of the Bowdoin Chapter graduate organization.

Literary Competition Shows Continued Growth and Success ... And The Winners Are:

For the second year in a row, both entries and numbers of chapters participating have increased in the Daniel Pearl Literary Competition. In total, 129 entries were received, and the judges noted that the general strength of the entries was substantial. Alpha Delta Phi International and the Samuel Eells Literary and Educational Foundation would like to congratulate the winners of the competition. We would also like to salute everyone who chose to enter in the past year; it is a tribute to your chapters and the literary tradition of our fraternity.

The winners of the competition are:

Daniel Pearl Memorial Award for Excellence in Literature:

A tie between:

Jacob Uitti, HAM '05
Place and Time, Fiction

Matthew Dong, BRN '07
Sweet Caroline and Dirty Water, Nonfiction

Fiction:

1st place: **Jacob Uitti**, HAM '05
Place and Time

2nd place: **Tony Margve**, JH '08
Fight is a Five Letter Word

3rd place: **Scott Robinson**, JH '06
The Adventures of Three Dumb Seniors

Nonfiction:

1st place: **Matthew Dong**, BRN '07
Sweet Caroline and Dirty Water

2nd place: **Michael Valentine**, AM '05
The Myth of the Black Church

3rd place: **Nik Van Den Meerendonk**, MINN '05
Inside Voices

Poetry:

1st place: **Samuel Biagetti**, BRN '06
Cicadas

2nd place: **Samuel Biagetti**, BRN '06
Miss Monroe Tells All

3rd place: **Samuel Biagetti**, BRN '06
Final Song

Our sincere thanks go to all of the volunteer judges who put in many hours to analyze the entries. A special word of gratitude goes to the awards chairman, Brother Robert O'Connor, JH '67, for his tireless efforts in organizing the judging process.

Quincy McDonald, VA '96

The Mission of The Alpha Delta Phi

*To provide a life-long, comprehensive,
and positive personal growth
experience for all undergraduate
and alumni brothers:*

*Social, Ethical, Leadership, Scholastic,
Community Service, and Literary.*

Br. Bill Carey, UN '56
(August 12, 1987)

173rd Annual Alpha Delta Phi Convention Recognizes Achievements With Awards

The historic Virginia Chapter, founded in 1855 and recolonized in 1987, was the host chapter for the 173rd Annual Convention, held in steamy Charlottesville, Virginia, August 11-12, 2005. Undergraduate and alumni delegates from 26 U.S. and Canadian chapters and affiliates gathered for two days of conferences that covered a wide range of topics from leadership training to literary

programming. The goals of the convention were to define strategies to strengthen each chapter through: recruitment of new members, increased support of alumni associations, support from ADPhi International, and reclaiming our position as the leading literary fraternity on each of our campuses.

Our guest of honor was Brother Peter Onuf, JH '67, the UVa Thomas Jefferson

professor of history, and our guest speaker was Brother Chris Whitcomb, HAM '81, an author and former FBI agent. The convention was capped off by a banquet and an awards ceremony at the Omni Hotel, where individual achievements were recognized with the presentation of awards.

All photos courtesy of Roger Deschner, CHI '77



Awards Chairman Tom Livingston, ILL '90, right, presents the **Andrew Onderdonk Best Alumni Organization Award** this year to the Chicago Chapter. The award was accepted by Jeremy Hetzel, CHI '06, left, and Roger Deschner, CHI '77, center.



The **Order of the Sword and Spear Award** winner is selected from chapter nominations for outstanding service to community, chapter, and brothers. This year the award was presented to Joshua R. Oviatt, ADEL '05, right, by Awards Chairman Tom Livingston, ILL '90, left.



The **Most Improved Alumni Organization Award** was presented this year to the Miami Realty Association. Accepting the award are Stefan Davis, MI '71, left, and Don French, MI '53, right. (Tom Livingston, ILL '90, center.)



Members of the Miami Chapter, from left to right, Don French, MI '53, Stefan Davis, MI '71, Doug Diefenbach, MI '80, and Barry Ogden, MI '85.



The **Samuel Eells Award**: Established in 1939, this award is given in recognition of distinguished public service to education, meritorious literary or artistic achievement, and eminence in the business or professional world. Granted this year to: Peter Onuf, JH '67, Uva Thomas Jefferson professor of history (picture on page two), and Christopher Whitcomb, HAM '81 (above at left), author and former FBI agent, and author of *Cold Zero* (2003), *Black* (2004), and *White* (2005). The award was presented by President Jon Vick, right.



The E.O. Blackman Best Chapter Award was presented to Colin O'Brien, K '07, center, and Andy Burton, K '00, right, on behalf of the Kenyon Chapter, for initiating 22 new members (more than double its average) and opening its new Gantner-Price Lodge.



Chapter Service Consultant Warren Wills, ADEL '04, left, presents the Presidents of the Year Award to Nate Roland, R'06, right, and Mike Mastromonico, R '05 (not pictured).

173rd Convention Awards

The Alpha Delta Phi Award: Established in 1963, this is the highest award bestowed by the fraternity. It is a special award given for exceptional service over an extended period of time. Awarded this year to: Stefan S. Davis, MI '71, Roger D. Deschner, CHI '77, Edward J. Donahue, JH '68, and Robert S. Price, K '58 (*See photo on page one*).

At this year's 173rd Convention of the Alpha Delta Phi, five new awards were presented to acknowledge the specific accomplishments of our undergraduate chapters.

The Found Brothers Award (which was not presented this year as our search for lost alumni brothers has just gotten under way) rewards the most successful chapter in reconnecting with those brothers we have lost contact with.

The Best Philanthropy Award was presented to the Memorial Chapter for raising over \$3,000 during Canada's annual Poppy Drive, benefiting the Royal Canadian Legionnaires. A few of the brothers were interviewed by Montreal's CBC news reporters during the drive, heightening the awareness of their effort to support Canada's war veterans.

For its success in recruitment this past year, the Illinois Chapter received the **Outstanding Recruitment Award**. With a total of 25 brothers initiated during 2004-2005, the brothers of Illinois set the standard for all our chapters with two solid classes of new brothers.

The Outstanding Literary Program Award was presented to the Rochester Chapter. Over the past year, this chapter held four on-campus literary events, two in-house events, a literary competition, and regular literary readings during chapter meetings. The chapter has started renovating and cataloguing its extensive house library.

The Presidents of the Year Award, recognizing the two presidents who have excelled at leading their chapter over the last scholastic year, was given to Mike Mastromonico, R '05, and Nathan Roland, R '06, of the Rochester Chapter. Their leadership, along with that of the previous president, Bijon Pajoohi, R '05, not only enabled them to reclaim their chapter house from the school, but also invigorated their brotherhood to a level that has not been seen in years.



Board of Governors Award: Awarded to Quincy McDonald, VIR '96, right, for revitalizing the fraternity's literary program and making the annual literary competition a keystone of our academic program. Immediate Past President Dave Brewster, VIR '94, left, presents the award.

Additional Awards:

Most Improved Chapters: Awarded to the California and Union chapters

Newsletter Award: Awarded to the Chicago Chapter.

Congratulations to all of this year's winners and best of luck to all the chapters in their pursuit of the highest ideals of the Alpha Delta Phi!

Warren Wills, ADEL '04



The entrance to the Virginia Chapter.

The 2004-2005 Fund Appeal HONOR ROLL

The following brothers contributed \$100 or more to the fraternity or to the foundation through fraternity headquarters. These totals reflect gifts received for the 2004-2005 fiscal year. Alpha Delta Phi appreciates each gift and extends gratitude to all contributors. Through your generosity, Alpha Delta Phi continues to develop a fraternity of excellence. If you note any errors or omissions, please contact fraternity headquarters so that appropriate corrections can be made.

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Donors' names are listed by chapter in founding order.

Leadership Conferences Go Beyond Annual Convention

Alpha Delta Phi International pays for one undergraduate from each chapter to come to the annual convention, and then seeks a practical way to bring the convention to the rest of the undergrads. The Alpha Delta Phi chapter service consultant (CSC) plans and conducts regional leadership conferences once a year for groups of chapters.

These conferences for chapter leaders include personalized leadership training and involve more interaction and educational opportunities than can be provided at the convention.

Each conference starts with a social gathering Friday night, continues with leadership training all day (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) on Saturday, and ends Sunday morning, or whenever the representatives from the chapter need to head back to campus. The CSC leads these conferences, focusing on a variety of chapter operations: recruitment, budgeting, literary endeavors, philanthropic activities, public relations, new member education, and much more.



Warren Wills,
ADEL '04

Our chapters find these conferences very useful as various chapters have found different ways to be successful in each area of chapter operations. These conferences give the chapters a better opportunity to relate successes and failures to brothers from other chapters. Ideally, those who can benefit the most from these gatherings are those brothers in their sophomore and junior years who are already on their chapter's executive board and have never attended a convention, or even those who have just become brothers and wish to expand their knowledge of how a chapter operates.

I strongly encourage each chapter, including every alumni board, to participate in these conferences. I look forward to working with all of our chapter leaders over the forthcoming academic year.

XAIPE!

Warren Wills, ADEL '04
adpwbw87@yahoo.com

Fall 2005 Leadership Conferences

New York Region
Rochester Chapter
September 16th - 18th

West Coast Region
California Chapter
October 7th - 9th

Spring 2006 Leadership Conferences

Mid-Atlantic Region - TBA

New England Region - TBA

Mid-West Region - TBA



New Alpha Delta Phi International Website Launched

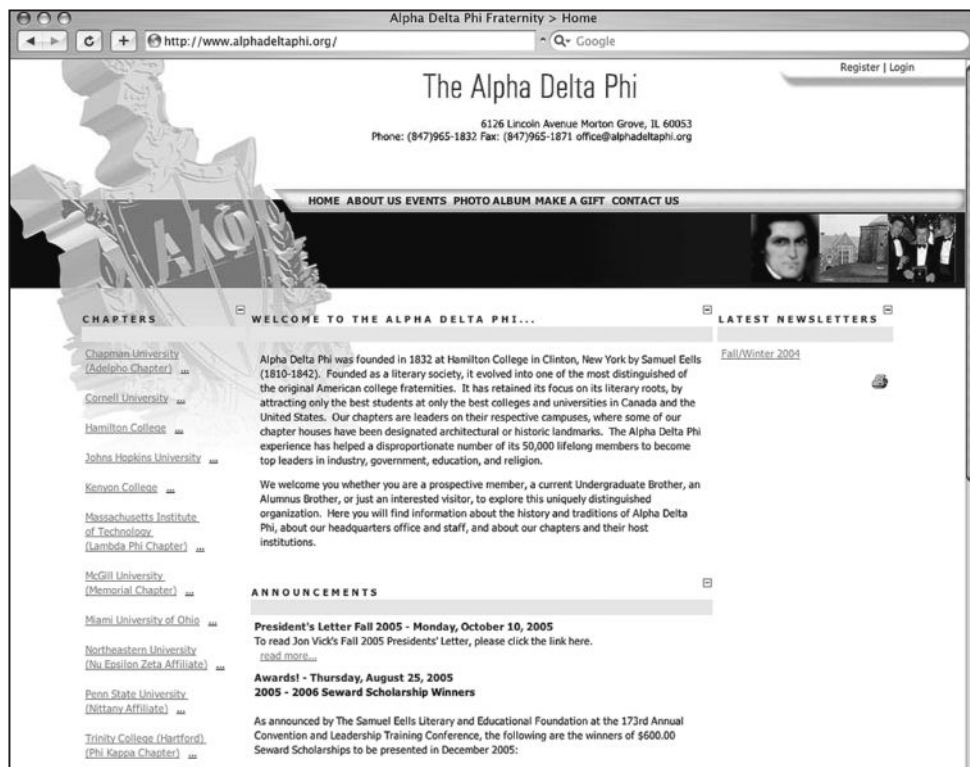
Wondering what your long lost pledge brothers have been up to? With the recent release of a revamped International website, it's simpler than ever to track down your fellow Alpha Deltas. The new site includes an easy-to-navigate membership database with increased content, including: Instant Messenger IDs, multiple e-mail addresses, pictures, and more.

The new site also features archives of chapter reports and other documents, MP3 music files of fraternity songs, the ability to make donations online, discussion forums, and quick access to Seward Scholarship and literary competition applications.

As an added benefit, the International site can host individual chapter websites on the purchased architecture. That means the following for chapters:

- *No hosting fees
- *No domain registration fees
- *Shared membership database with the International
- *The ability to share documents and calendar events across chapters

To take advantage of the website and view the new features, please visit www.alphadeltaphi.org.



Once there, be sure to register on the site to gain access to member-only features.

Brian Davis, VIR '99
bdavis@acumensolutions.com

Book Reviews Wanted

Have you written a book... ever, ...or lately? Have you read a book that was written by a fellow Alpha Delt? If you have answered "yes" to one of these questions, we would like to hear from you. Specifically, we are looking for book reviews of books that have been written by Alpha Deltas. Even more specifically, what we really want are book reviews written by Alpha Deltas of books that have been written by Alpha Deltas.

If you have read a book that was written by a fellow Alpha Delt, please submit a book review of same. We will publish one such book review in each future issue of *Xaipe*, and award \$250 to the reviewer. Therefore, if you have some time on your hands, please read

your brothers' works and share your thoughts with us. If you are just getting started, or are trying to get started in the field of journalism, get published here in *Xaipe*!

Your review must be personally written, and no more than two typed pages long. Please submit this to the International office, Attention: ADPhi Book Review. With all of the critics in Alpha Delta Phi, we should have no shortage of responses! Here is your chance to exercise your skills and receive a stipend for your work. We look forward to hearing from you.

Kenneth E. Growney, COR '82
VP Alpha Delta Phi International
kgrowney@metlife.com

Mark Your Calendars:

The 174th Annual Convention will be held in Boston, Massachusetts August 11th-12th, 2006

Special anniversary reunions will be celebrated for the following chapters:

170th: Amherst, Brown, Columbia, Yale

160th: Dartmouth, Peninsular (Michigan)

150th: Middletown

110th: Chicago

80th: British Columbia

30th: Lambda Phi (MIT)



Rochester Chapter House Regained By Alpha Deltas

We've got the house back! After extensive work over nine months by the undergraduate officers and brothers, on Friday, February 18, 2005, the University of Rochester administration gave its unconditional approval for our reoccupation of the chapter house starting the 2005-2006 academic year.

This victory is the result of tireless efforts culminating in a formal in-person presentation to a review panel, which included several members of the dean of students office and Dick Rasmussen, chair

of the Alumni Hellenic Council. ADP Faculty Advisor Peter Waasdorp, R '62, and Chapter Service Consultant Warren Wills, ADEL '04, were also present as advocates and observers. The favorable decision was delivered several days before the university's stated response date, further validating the strength of the undergraduates' case. The Rochester alumni could not be more proud of the preparation and dedication that went into this turnaround.

Although the undergrads have passed a major hurdle with a positive outcome of

the review panel, we can be sure that the dean's office will be watching them closely. With this spotlight focused on them, they must stay "squeaky-clean" and maintain their continuous improvement.

Special thanks for their leadership to Chapter President Nathan Roland, R '06, and Past Presidents Bijan Pajoochi, R '05, and Michael Mastromonaco, R '05, representing the brotherhood at the review.

Peter Heinrich, R '60



The newly reoccupied Rochester Chapter house.

Xaipe

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Suggestions for and contributions of articles for future issues of *Xaipe* are welcomed.

