

# THE RHOAR

of Rho Chapter

March 2005



## IN THIS ISSUE

- Orchid Ball 2005
- The New Sigma Pi
- Sigma Pi, Farmhouse, and Phi Gamma Delt attend Risk Management program
- Athletics Back in Action
- Brothers Hit the Slopes
- A Walk Down Memory Lane
- First Annual End of Year Barbeque

### The Rhoar

#### Editors:

Ryan Kirkendall  
Tommy Rodwell

#### Alumni President:

Patrick J. McKee

#### Chapter Director:

William Lackey

## SPRING RUSH 2005-RHO PINS FOUR PLEDGES

By Jason Davidson

**Raleigh, NC-** This semester Rho Chapter of Sigma Pi Fraternity started out strong with high hopes of continued expansion. During the fall semester, the brothers were able to initiate 13 exemplary and outstanding men. The brothers spent weeks of planning and preparation to make sure spring semester recruitment went just as well. We have many exciting events planned out for this semester, including broomball, poker night, an evening with the lovely ladies of Hooter's, gumbo night, laser tag, info sessions, and of course several parties in between.

Rush officially started on Thursday January 20th and ended on Friday February 4th. Most of the events brought out at least 20 to 30 Brothers and rushees. We also had several Alumni that were able to make it out to the various events; thanks to those of you that were able to come and hopefully our next Rush will be set up so more of you will be able to participate. All of the scheduled events were a lot of fun, as well as the non-scheduled events which included an 80's night at social chair Johnson's house and an end of rush party at 119 Park Ave.



From left to right, Bobby Morrows, Evan Danals, Matthew Casuli, and John Best filling out paperwork for Nationals on Pinning Day. They are the Spring 2005 Pledge Class for Rho Chapter.

The brothers spent those two weeks becoming acquainted with the rushees and explaining to them what it meant to be a Sigma Pi. We explained to them all the responsibilities required of each brother but at the same time showed them how interesting and involved the daily life of a Sigma Pi is. The rushees had a great time at all the events and were able to get to know most of the brothers in a relatively short time. The events culminated when five rushees were extended a formal invitation to become a Brother of Sigma Pi.

Five rushees were extended bids with four of them accepting. After the confirmation of their acceptance, the Brothers held a pinning ceremony on Super Bowl Sunday, during which John Best, Matthew Casulli, Evan Danals, and Bobby Morrow began their official pledgeship. The pinning ceremony was followed by an evening of singing and comradery, during which the Chapter celebrated the success of the spring rush and the beginning of an exciting journey for the newest members of Sigma Pi. As such, everyone felt that the spring rush brought four great new members to our fine brotherhood, and was considered to be a success by all. Thanks to everyone who helped to make this semester's rush go well, and we look forward to continued success in the years to come for Rho Chapter.



Broomball, once again, was a favorite among both the Brothers and the Rushees, as they pose for a photo in front of the crease on the ice in Garner, NC.

# THE SAGE SPEAKS

By Fred Duyck

**Raleigh, NC-** Let me begin by saying what a privilege and honor it is to have been elected by my Brothers to represent Rho Chapter of Sigma Pi Fraternity – I look forward to an exciting and prosperous year. Secondly, I would like to give a quick background on myself. I am a senior majoring in microbiology and political science (and because of the double major will get to be a senior for two years) from Asheville, NC. During my time at State I've served as Chair of the Campus Arts Council, as well as a representative to the President's Roundtable, Chancellor's Liaison, and Student Center's Board of Directors. I believe that the experience I've gained serving in student organizations and student government will greatly aid me in my duties as Sage and representative to the campus community. Finally, I pledged and was initiated in the Fall of 2003 at which time I was elected First Counselor, so, I can give a brief history of the Chapter's progress since then.

I was the only pledge initiated in the Fall of 2003, just as our Third Counselor Mark Sutton was the only initiate of his pledge class in the Spring of 2004. At the beginning of the Fall 2004 semester with only eight active Brothers, Rho Chapter was facing strong pressure from nationals to either increase our numbers, or have our Charter revoked. In response, like the Sigma Pi's we are, and with the leadership of Past Sage Steere, we got tough and pulled nine quality pledges during rush. Additionally, we had a second rush later in the semester where we pinned four new pledges. By the end of the fall 2004 semester, we had initiated all thirteen pledges, bringing our active number to twenty-one. Optimism and energy filled the air at Rho Chapter as this Spring semester kicked off. We took the momentum from the end of the Fall semester into Spring rush where we pinned another four pledges. We are again in good standing with Greek Life and Interfraternity Council, attending all regular meetings as well as having Brothers on the IFC Recruitment Committee, Greek Week Planning Committee, and IFC Judicial Board.

I believe that if Rho Chapter is going to continue to grow, we must become a force on campus and in the local community. I am encouraging Brothers to become involved with other student organizations as well as student government and IFC. We can start building a name again on campus by simply building our strength and recognition within the Greek system. Just recently we were a part of a joint educational program with our neighbors, Farm House and FIJI Fraternities. We are rapidly expanding our athletics program, where we are quickly becoming a major player in fraternity league games. Finally, we have planned an Orchid Ball and are working hard to involve Alumni in the Chapter. In the coming months I hope to see all these and many other objectives fully realized, returning Sigma Pi to its rightful spot as the premier fraternity at N.C. State.

# THE NEW SIGMA PI

For those of you who may not know, here are some of the statistics on Rho Chapter, valid through February 2005.

## *Executive Council*

Sage Fred Duyck  
*feduyck@unity.ncsu.edu*

Second Counselor Rich Steere  
*rhsteere@unity.ncsu.edu*

Third Counselor Mark Sutton  
*mdsutto4@ncsu.edu*

Fourth Counselor Brandon McPherson  
*blmcphe@ncsu.edu*

First Counselor Ryan Kirkendall  
*rskirken@ncsu.edu*

Herald Travis Ballenger  
*tgballen@ncsu.edu*

## *Statistics*

Location: 119 Park Avenue in the old Alpha Gamma Rho House

Number of Actives: 21

Initiates from Fall 2004: 13

Spring 2005 Pledges: 4

Active Committees: Rush, Orchid Ball, Social Philanthropy, Fundraising, Athletics, House Renovations



The House at 119 Park

# RHO TEAMS WITH FARMHOUSE AND PHI GAMMA DELTA FOR STANDARDS

By Ryan Kirkendall

**Raleigh, NC-** On Sunday, February 13th, 2005, the brothers of Rho Chapter, along with Farmhouse and Phi Gamma Delta Fraternities assembled at the newly constructed Farmhouse house on Park avenue to listen to NC State Department of Student Conduct official Paul Cousins in an open forum discussion on risk management and underage drinking.



The Brothers of Sigma Pi, Farmhouse, and Phi Gamma Delta listening to NCSU Student Conduct Official, Paul Cousins deliver a presentation on Risk Management and what we can do to stay out of trouble

With instances of hazing plaguing the Greek Community here at NC State, Cousins went into great detail about the actions that resulted in the suspension of Delta Sigma Phi, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, and Sigma Phi Epsilon, and what we as Fraternity men could do to ensure that our Chapters do not face the same fate. Cousins also gave a speech on the importance of risk management at parties and outlined a series of steps to prevent disciplinary problems and future trips to the office of Student Conduct. After the meeting, the Brothers of Farmhouse were kind enough to open their new house up for a tour, with Farmhouse director JB Braxton giving the Brothers of Rho chapter a personally guided tour through their new house and chatting with Sage Duyck, Second Counselor Steere, Fourth Counselor McPherson, and myself well into the night.

Along with fulfilling IFC standards, the program allowed the Brothers of Farmhouse, Phi Gamma Delta, and Sigma Pi to get together and interact on a level more personal than simply saying hello at an IFC meeting, or passing each other on the street. As all three chapters live in the same general area, this new found coalition will undoubtedly prove invaluable to the progression of all parties involved and is another monumental step in getting Rho Chapter back as a strong voice in the NC State Greek Community.

# ATHLETICS ARE BACK WITH RHO B-BALL

By Trevor Israel

**Raleigh, NC-** It gives me great pleasure to announce that Rho athletics are back with a bang. Our basketball team this season went 2 - 2 during the regular season, which guaranteed us a spot in the playoffs. Unfortunately, we lost our first postseason game, but that only makes us eager for next year. After losing to one of the best teams in the league, Theta Chi, we bounced back to beat Farm House 30 to 18. Our next game against TKE went down to the wire, but we eventually lost 25 to 22.

In our final regular season game, against Phi Tau, we were down by eight with seven minutes to go. With the strong perimeter shot of Peter Pyon and Jeremy Bibey's uncanny ability to penetrate to the basket, Sigma Pi was able to slowly inch it's way back into contention, more importantly solidifying a spot in the Fraternity League playoffs. As the seconds dwindled away, the men of Rho Chapter saw that deficit decrease to zero, and with little over a minute left in the game, a three-point shot by Peter Pyon put Rho in the lead. We were then able to close the game out with an impeccable performance at the free throw line as Phi Tau resorted to fouling in hopes of avoiding the almost certain defeat looming over their soldiers. We buckled down and came out victorious by a score of 34-30, sending us into post-season play.

Presently, Rho chapter also has brothers participating in racquetball, 4 on 4 flag football, and softball. Our football games are on February 28 and March 14 at 6:30 pm on Miller Fields. Three of our softball games are on March 16, 20, and 30 at 7:30 on Miller Fields and one game is TBA. All of our sports team members are anxious to represent Sigma Pi in our intramural events.



Fred Duyek heads to the sideline as Rho sets out to dismantle Phi Tau. A win would guarantee a spot for the team in the playoffs.

# BROTHERS HEAD UP TO W. VIRGINIA TO HIT THE SLOPES AT SNOWSHOE

By Travis Ballenger

**Snowshoe, WV**- During the first week of the new year, the Brothers of Rho Chapter embarked upon a journey to Snowshoe, West Virginia. Before their departure, the brothers faced threats of inclement weather, i.e. warm weather. Nevertheless, these brave men mustered their courage, and they set their bearings due north-northwest. There were six of them: Greg Brickham, Richard Steere, Mark Sutton, Travis Ballenger, Michael Jayjack, and Garrett Loyd, as well as two guests. Along the six-hour journey to the slopes, the excitement and anticipation could be felt in the air. However, as Snowshoe Mountain approached, anticipation quickly turned into anxiety. Rhoaring down the mountainside at speeds reaching twenty-five miles per hour, the brothers' hearts pounded with the rhythmic musical beats accompanying them on their journey. Finally, the brothers reached the summit.

The next morning, Greg and Travis helped to prepare the brothers for the day ahead by cooking omelets for the entire crew. With a breakfast fit for kings in their bellies, the brothers excitedly dashed out to the ski slopes, which were conveniently located a mere fifty meters from their lodge. The overnight weather had been amiable, and the slopes were ripe for slaloming. The brothers skied for three hours that morning before convening back at the lodge for lunch. After lunch, they hit the slopes once again for another three hours of fast-paced skiing.



Rich Steere and Travis Ballenger enjoying some time on the slopes

At five o'clock, the slopes at Snowshoe closed for the day, and the brothers returned to the lodge for dinner and relaxation. After their recuperation, they took a brief drive to the adjacent Silver Creek ski slopes for snow tubing and night skiing. After spending two hours there, the brothers decided to call it a day. Back at the lodge, they sat around and reflected on the various thrills they had each encountered on the slopes, until each brother had fallen fast asleep. The next morning, the brothers awoke and prepared for the long journey home. The brothers arrived back at North Carolina State University that night in higher spirits than before they left.

## QUOTE-WORTHY

“It was really great having you guys over at FH last Sunday night. I hope that you will work with our Chapter President, Grant Culp, to find similar opportunities to cooperate on other future projects. When small chapters like ours pool resources, it enables everyone to spread the work around so that it isn't such a burden, and helps us to accomplish more.”

*“JB” Braxton, Farmhouse Senior Chapter Advisor*

“Good ideas are not adopted automatically. They must be driven into practice with courageous patience.”

*Hyman Rickover (1900-1986)*

“A man's character is his fate.”

*Heraclitus (540 BC-480 BC)*



# TAKE A WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE

By Ryan Kirkendall



**Raleigh, NC-** For those of you who have not been receiving my slew of e-mails through the Alumni listserv, my name is Ryan Kirkendall, I'm a freshman (sophomore by hours) in Mechanical Engineering and I am the current First Counselor at Rho.

I am keeping this whole page to myself, partly because minus the articles written by my fellow Brothers, I put together this entire newsletter myself, and partly because I have a story to tell, a story in which I hope you all can take to heart. Now, I am as much of a novice when it comes to Sigma Pi as can be (I was only initiated last semester), and as far as the lack of a relationship between the Actives and the Alumni, I only know what I've been told. That will soon change.

So, as the story begins, I am standing outside of the Farmhouse, right after listening to Paul Cousins' lecture on Risk Management. Remembering that the Brothers of Farmhouse invited us to tour their house, a few of my brothers and I decided to do just that, and walking up to the first floor, to enter the office of Farmhouse Chapter Director JB Braxton, my walk down memory lane had just begun. Amidst all the hardwood office furniture and impressive architecture were showcases upon showcases of Farmhouse history. Paddles from the founding fathers, composites through the ages, names, faces, baseballs, trophies, tractors—you name it, it was historical; it was there.

JB then led us on a walk-through of the house; at this point in time I was stuck somewhere between a state of awe and reflection, in awe of what they as a Fraternity had accomplished, and reflecting upon what I know we as Rho Chapter, the fifth oldest chapter of Sigma Pi in continuous existence, are capable of. In that instance, all I wanted to do was to write something down, to express what I had just felt to anyone who would listen, and then it hit me. I wanted to write a piece for the Rhoar, and I had my topic. The tour came full circle, ending back in JB's office. He then began to inquire about our relationship with our Alumni, and how Farmhouse had to deal with a similar problem only a few years ago. He mentioned publishing an Alumni newsletter, and how just reaching out to their Alumni in that way sparked the rebirth of a strong relationship. I had been working hard on the Rhoar for two weeks prior to that, and that night I came back to my room and typed up this very editorial that you are reading now. Hopefully the Rhoar will help to achieve a similar result.

We have so much history just sitting in a dusty attic, waiting to be brought out and proudly displayed for all to see. We are all tied into a bond of Brotherhood in which no word exists to adequately describes, and I feel as though now is the time if there ever was one to realize that, and make that our priority. This is the Alumni newsletter, yet I knew nothing about the Alumni to actually publish. I was really in a bind, I wanted to print the Rhoar as soon as possible, but I had nothing to print, other than what has been going on with the Actives. Things were soon made clear to me however, upon receiving an e-mail

then made more sense when I received an e-mail from Alumnus Paul Mitchell, ('69) which read, "I guess some of us thought that the chapter just faded away because of no house and no real rush. I am glad to hear that is not correct." All it took was a paragraph in the Emerald to let some of you know that we in fact are still here. Some of our Alumni did not even know we still existed, so in response to that, this issue of the Rhoar can be seen of as primarily an update in the status of the Active Brotherhood, a postcard from your favorite cousin whom you haven't spoken to in a few years, a postcard letting you know everything is going well, and that he or she is looking forward to seeing you in the near future.

This being said, on behalf of the Active Brothers of Rho Chapter, we all look forward to seeing you in the near future. We look forward to you coming to have dinner with us, we look forward to you coming by the house, making the history of Rho alive again, and not simply locked away in some dirty old box, forgotten for the times. We ask you to lead us on a walk down memory lane, tell us about how you met the girl of your dreams at the 1956 Orchid Ball, or how we took down the USC Gamecocks for Homecoming in 1962 (Not sure on the historical accuracy of those dates). Write us, call us, e-mail us, send up smoke signals if you wish, I promise we are listening.

For future issues of the Rhoar, I want you all to send me in something, I do not care what it is, let me know what you are doing, let me know if you have something important you want all your fellow brothers to see, let me interview you over the phone, let me know if there are some steps you would like so see the Chapter make, and I can guarantee you that they will make the next issue. Maybe even one day I can get enough material to make the Rhoar a monthly publication, a goal I wish to materialize in my time as First Counselor.

For those of you who are unable to physically attend the events we have planned in the future, I hope this newsletter is a welcome sight and that it provides you with an adequate look into the current state of the Chapter. For those of you who can physically attend, I urge you to attend the monthly dinners we are starting in March between the Actives and the Alumni, and I encourage you to attend all of our other events as well, such as the Orchid Ball this year in Charleston, or the end of the year cookout as described in the "Upcoming Events" section following this article. I look forward to serving you guys this next year and getting together to make Rho Chapter the outstanding organization it once was and should now be.

In The Bond,

Ryan S. Kirkendall  
First Counselor  
Rho Chapter, Sigma Pi  
North Carolina State University  
(919)-512-4336 (Room)  
(910)-280-3278 (Cell)  
rskirken@ncsu.edu

# 2005 ORCHID BALL

By Brandon McPherson

Raleigh, NC- Men of Sigma Pi, your presence is requested for the 2005 Orchid Ball. Imagine a chance to revisit a collegiate lifestyle and spend time with guys you haven't seen in years, as well as meet the current brothers of Rho Chapter. The Ball will take place April 15-17, 2005, at the Holiday Inn Patriot's Point right outside of Charleston, South Carolina. This event is a great opportunity to see how the chapter is doing. Attire for this event is black tie, and there will be a D.J. Please RSVP to 1.828.301.5075 (Sage Fred Duyck) or blmcphe@ncsu.edu (Orchid Ball Chairman Brandon McPherson) by March 10. In order to ensure room availability we request that you contact the resort at 1.843.884.6000 by March 15. Reserve your room in the Orchid Ball block. This will be an amazing night and I hope that you will join the Brothers of Rho Chapter in Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina.

## HAZING AT NCSU

By Fred Duyck

Raleigh, NC- Last semester three fraternities – Sigma Phi Epsilon, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, and Delta Sigma Phi – were indicted on charges of hazing. This resulted in all three fraternities losing their university recognition, along with Sigma Phi Epsilon losing its charter and being evicted from its house on fraternity court. Additionally, the campus and triangle were flooded with bad press about the chapters and the Greek system as a whole. Not only did this overshadow all the good work we do in the Greek system, but it made recruitment in the spring more difficult.

Because of this, and in an effort to get off the Renaissance Program, we will be doing a second rush this semester during the week of March 14th and with the assistance of Jeremy Boyd, Sigma Pi's Assistant Director of Chapter Development. As we increase our numbers, we try to stay mindful of the quality of the potential new Brothers. Also, we are trying to emphasize academics, service, and national history during the pledge process. We believe that by having the pledges focus more on school, our history, and our ideals, we can stay in good standing with the university and nationals, while adding quality Brothers to Rho Chapter.

*The Brothers of Rho Chapter would like to thank Alumnus Joel Harrell for his generous donation of a stand-up bar and Sigma Pi glassware. All the items will undoubtedly become integral parts in the history of Rho Chapter.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Alumni/Active Dinner

When: Wednesday, March 2nd

Where: Two Guys

Time: 7:30 PM

Contact: Ryan Kirkendall at

rskirken@ncsu.edu or

(910) - 280- 3278

(919) - 833- 1635

### Alumni/Active Dinner

When: Wednesday, April 6th

Where: Amedeo's

Time: 7:30 PM

Contact: Ryan Kirkendall at

rskirken@ncsu.edu or

(910) - 280- 3278

(919) - 833- 1635

### Orchid Ball 2005

When: April 15- 17

Where: Mt. Pleasant SC

Time: All Weekend

Contact: Brandon McPherson at

blmcphe@ncsu.edu or

(910) - 217- 1313

(919) - 833- 1635

### End of Year Cookout

When: Saturday, April 30th

Where: The House

Time: 4:00 PM

Contact: Ryan Kirkendall at

rskirken@ncsu.edu or

(910) - 280- 3278

(919) - 833- 1635

If you have any event you wish to have listed in this space, please contact first counselor Ryan Kirkendall at rskirken@ncsu.edu

# SPECIAL NOTICE FOR ALL ALUMNI

## Rho Chapter Alumni Address Update for 2005

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Year Pledged \_\_\_\_\_

*Please take a moment to fill out the form below so we can update our records here at Rho Chapter. This year we want to contact all of our Alumni at their homes and reestablish a strong bond of brotherhood between the Active Brothers and all of our Alumni. We are planning several events in the near future involving the Alumni and need this information to send invitations properly and promptly.*

Mail to: R   
119   
Raleigh



## Rho Chapter of Sigma Pi Donation Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Year Pledged \_\_\_\_\_

I am pleased to enclose my check: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*(Made payable to Sigma Pi)*

Mail to: Rho Chapter, Sigma Pi  
119 Park Avenue

*Rho Chapter would like to thank you for your generous, tax-deductible contributions.*

# *Orchid Ball*

## *2005*

*April 15-17*  
*in Beautiful Mt. Pleasant, right*  
*outside Historic Downtown*  
*Charleston, S.C.*



*For more information, please contact Orchid Ball chair Brandon McPherson by e-mail at [blmcpher@ncsu.edu](mailto:blmcpher@ncsu.edu), or by telephone at (910) 217-1313. The Orchid Ball will be held at the Holiday Inn Patriot's Point in Mount Pleasant, a mere 15 minutes away from gorgeous Downtown Charleston. See more at [www.himtpleasant.com](http://www.himtpleasant.com).*

---

---

**SIGMA PI**  
**FRATERNITY**

---

---

*119 Park Avenue*  
*Raleigh, NC 27605*

