

## Alumni Advisory Board

# AAB

## Be a Mentor and Ensure Undergraduate Success

We have all become accustomed to seeing references to the chapter House Corporation (HC) and the chapter advisor. And for most of us, these monikers have called to mind specific individuals. At least in my mind, I think of those brothers who have stepped up and taken on the positions of Hi Pi, House Corporation president and treasurer. And in many instances, it was true that these three individuals provided the bulk of the active alumni involvement with the chapter.

We all depended on these few volunteers to rally support when needed, to make sure that the basic fiscal structure was in tact and to make those well-placed phone calls that would bail out the chapter in a time of need. However, chapter operations at both the undergraduate and house corporation level have become increasingly complex. This has been driven by internal and external factors. Internally, the general fraternity and the chapter have set high standards for operations. These standards are driven in part by our own goals but also, in large part, to the external factors. All fraternities now must deal with state and local regulatory requirements that we alumni didn't even contemplate as undergraduates, not to mention the litigious environment in which we all now live. Lastly, all Greek organizations need to meet and maintain ever-increasing operating standards imposed upon them by their host colleges.

Continuing the current alumni support model — which depends on two or three brothers to carry most of the load as advisors, landlords and business agents of the HC at the same time — is unrealistic. This only guarantees burnout of the volunteer brothers and our jumping from crisis to crisis. The short and simple of it is this: We, as alumni, must adjust our involvement to meet the current needs of the chapter.

Toward this end, we are going forward with the development of the Alumni Advisory Board (AAB). The first step will be to more clearly define the roles of the AAB and the HC. During the past several years, the two groups have worked, more or less, as a

single entity out of necessity to accomplish what was needed to ensure the survival of the chapter. However, it has always been a goal/desire to see a separation of the AAB and HC function. The current stability of the undergraduate chapter has given us an opportunity to effect the desired change. As you read on page 1, the HC has outlined their responsibilities and goals. The AAB has done this as well.

Up to this point, the AAB has had active alumni involvement with about half of the chapter officers. One of our short-term goals is to increase involvement so that all of the undergraduate (UG) officers have an ongoing alumni contact or mentor. Since there are comprehensive resources available to assist us in the form of manuals, guidelines, standards, references, etc., much of our activity to date has focused on implementation of the program and establishing links to the UG chapter.

Our ongoing goals are straightforward. We will 1) support of the UG officers in the execution of their duties, 2) help them develop procedural mechanisms to work more efficiently, 3) ensure the smooth transition of undergraduate officers and 4) incorporate all of our activities into a solid fraternity education program.

Each mentor will work with a specific UG officer. Along with the UG officers, the mentors are expected to 1) participate in a regular planning meeting (retreat), 2) have weekly contact with the officers, 3) assist the UG officers with the preparation of a written monthly report of activity, 4) review officer standards and 5) work together to establish goals and a plan to accomplish the goals.

