

# **Sigma Phi Delta (SFD) Engineering Fraternity**

## **34<sup>th</sup> General Convention**

### **Vancouver Alumni Chapter Report**

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

The Vancouver Alumni Chapter membership is comprised of Vancouver-area alumni and Theta alumni members abroad. It serves officially as an Alumni Chapter, and unofficially as an Alumni Association. The Chapter does not charge annual dues, but relies on a donations-based system, whereby members donate towards a House Maintenance fund, and the interest from that fund is used as the Chapter's operating fund. The number of donors is for this past year approximately 30 members.

In the past, we have relied upon our newsletters (twice per year) and an annual Christmas Social. Due to the increase in usage of the Internet, and as a result of increasing postage costs, we have recently relied upon e-mail notifications of upcoming events, to serve as an electronic newsletter, and have supplemented that with a paper-based newsletter that goes out to members without e-mail once there is sufficient news or a significant upcoming event to warrant its publishing and distribution.

There has been discussion in the past of a summer event for those who are unable to make the Christmas Social. A Summer BBQ was tried a couple of years ago, and last year a "Pub Crawl" was put together. While the BBQ turnout was somewhat discouraging, the Pub Crawl had fair attendance given the amount of notice. This year, there was a plan to make the annual Camping Trip our summer event, and it was reasonably well attended, especially by the more recent alumni, with one driving out from Calgary, another coming from the Interior of BC, and one flying in from Montreal. The most recent Christmas Social also had fair attendance. The Chapter would like to thank the hospitality of the Currie family for hosting the 2000 Christmas Social.

While it is not an Alumni event, there are typically a few alumni who come out and play hockey for the undergrads. It serves as a great way for some of the alumni to get to know the actives, pledges, and prospective pledges - and vice versa. Likewise, alumni members typically show up at the University for various events held by the Engineering Undergraduate Society, and are in attendance at Active Chapter meetings. The relationship between the two chapters is strong, and we hope to maintain and build upon this strength forever.

The key problem that we have in maintaining membership is as a result of a lack of communication. We are attempting to remedy this situation by sending out frequent electronic communications, updating our mailing database, and possibly looking into locating lost brothers. For those that have e-mail, we have set up an e-mail distribution list - this allows us to save on postage, and results in immediate receipt of news, no matter where Theta Alumni members are (as long as they have access to the Internet). For those that do not, unfortunately we are limited to the newsletter, phone calls, and word of mouth. The latter scenario tends to be common with the older alumni, for whichever reason. We have informally adopted a plan to get the new (ie. recently graduated) alumni members involved, and have seen promising results from it. The only problem with this plan is that many of the recent graduates have found jobs elsewhere outside of the Vancouver area, especially in the Alberta and the US, and so e-mail is the only means of contact for these alumni members. However, even these members abroad make an attempt to show up at such events as our annual camping trip, as mentioned above.

## **FINANCES**

The Alumni Chapter maintains a House Maintenance Fund, which is available for financing any capital renovations or repairs, which need to be conducted on the fraternity house. This fund has grown substantially over the years and has been successful in becoming a "safety net". As mentioned in the previous section, as a result of a recent change from a dues structure to a donations system, our General Operating Fund now runs off of interest from the House Maintenance Fund. The Alumni Chapter also controls a House Operating Fund, which is substantiated from the rent paid by boarders and is utilized to cover the operating expenses of the fraternity house (i.e. property taxes and insurance). The status of these funds is shown on the attached financial report at the end of this report.

## **HOUSING**

The fraternity house is owned by the Alumni chapter. Rent is paid to the Alumni by the Active chapter twice per year in order to cover the costs of insurance and property taxes. The Active Chapter appoints a House Manager who collects rent, pays utilities, controls food purchases, and oversees house maintenance, general upkeep and renovations.

Although risk reduction is primarily the responsibility of the Active Chapter, Alumni members make every effort to make themselves available for consultation on this matter. When Alumni members are attending functions in conjunction with the Active Chapter, they ensure that activities are conducted with minimal risk.

In terms of renovations, according to the current House Manager, Brother Adam Niiranen, nothing major has been done in the past year, although there was a small incident with regards to drainage around the House, which has since been solved. The Pantry project was completed in the past year, and is now in full use. Otherwise, most of the work done on the House has been in the form of minor upkeep projects, as well as a switchover from cable modem to ADSL.

Upcoming planned renovations include replastering and painting of the upstairs hallway, devising a solution to a drainage problem in the back yard, and (in 5-8 years) replacing the roof of the House. The Chapter also hopes that the back yard is tidied up, although there has been a general improvement in the House in terms of tidiness when people are doing their chores, most likely due to the relocation of hockey equipment from the main entrance to the basement.

## **GENERAL**

As mentioned above, the Alumni-Active relationship is strong, particularly between recent graduates and Actives. While official joint meetings are not held, several Alumni are always present at weekly Active meetings. Alumni members also play on the Active ice hockey team and this year the Alumni outnumbered the Actives at the annual year-end camping trip. The Active President and House Manager attend the annual Alumni Christmas social, and the Alumni host a celebration of Mary Alice Gillespie (The Chief, Active House Mother from 1963 to 1994)'s birthday at the Active Chapter House in October.

The Alumni Chapter gives out two bursaries each year. One, the Mary Gillespie Award is given to an Active member who demonstrates dedication to scholastics, fraternity involvement, contributions to the community, and financial need. This year's recipient was Brother Chad Brown. Also, an annual bursary is given to an engineering student at the University of British Columbia, judged on the criteria of scholastic performance and financial need. This bursary was funded by Brother Alvin Nemetz through his Foundation. Sadly, Brother Nemetz has recently entered the Castle Eternal.

There have been no changes to the Chapter Bylaws, as the current Chapter Executive is unaware of any such Bylaws. We do, however, subscribe to the following as our unofficial Bylaws:

- (1) Be excellent to each other
- (2) Party on dudes

The Vancouver Alumni Chapter Executive would be grateful if the National Office could send us a copy of any Bylaws of ours that we may have submitted in the past.

Currently, the Chapter does not have a program of bequests from its membership. One may be contemplated in the future.

The Vancouver Alumni Chapter is grateful to the National Office for its energy and dedication in the organisation and administration of this international fraternity. We expect, and do find, an open and responsive channel of communications between our executive and the members of the Supreme Council. In addition, the Alumni hope that National Office will continue to maintain the quality of the organisation's website, which proves to be an excellent means of communication between chapters and members. National Officers abroad are always welcome to visit Vancouver and experience our traditions.

Finally, we would like to congratulate Brother Kevin Oldknow for his election into the position of Western Province Councillor, and thank him for the time and effort he has placed into the position of House Liaison for the Alumni Chapter. He has been doing a great job as Province Councillor, and we trust he will provide many years of excellent service to the National Executive. We would also like to thank Brother Ben Prins for his many years of service as the former Western Province Councillor, and we would like to congratulate Brother Don Nash on his appointment to the position of Deputy Western Province Councillor for Expansion.

Fraternally,

Edmund Gin  
Secretary, Vancouver Alumni Chapter  
Delegate, ΣΦΔ 34<sup>th</sup> General Convention

## Financial Statement For Year Ending March 31, 2001

<u>LEDGER</u>	<u>DEBIT</u>	<u>CREDIT</u>	<u>BALANCE</u>
Operating Account			
• Opening Balance			<b>\$383.47</b>
• Society Filing Fee	\$100.00		
• Dues	\$300.50		
• Service Charges	\$30.00		
• Xmas Social Supplies	\$701.15		
• Xmas Social		\$520.00	
• Mary Gillespie Memorial Award	\$150.00		
• Closing Balance			<b><u>(\$378.18)</u></b>
House Account			
• Opening Balance			<b><u>(\$2770.51)</u></b>
• Household Insurance		\$1903.00	
• Property Taxes		\$7452.08	
• Garbage Collection		\$117.50	
• Household Insurance	\$1903.00		
• Property Taxes	\$2412.07		
• Closing Balance			<b><u>\$2387.00</u></b>
Maintenance Account			
• Opening Balance			<b><u>\$3962.20</u></b>
• Donations		\$969.7	
• Closing Balance			<b><u>\$4931.90</u></b>
Total			<b><u>\$6940.72</u></b>

BALANCE SHEET

<u>ASSETS</u>		<u>LIABILITIES</u>
Land	\$676,000.00	
Improvements	\$68,700.00	
Canada Trust Account	\$6940.72	
Ethical Fund	\$12,637.98	
Total	<b>\$764,278.70</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

We hereby certify that the information contained herein is accurate and correct, to the best of our knowledge.

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Brent A. Dozzi, P. Eng.  
Treasurer

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Kevin Deane-Freeman, P. Eng.  
President