TKE: Celebrating a new beginning

By Paul Szaniawski

One of the longest-running rumors regarding Rider’s campus history is the memory of Tau Kappa Epsilon’s (TKE) charter being taken away in 1980. Rumors have run rampant about the one final act that caused the administration to throw the book at the group. Twenty-five years later, the fraternity is making a comeback. A recent group meeting heard quite an array of stories.

“Some of the rumors that I heard was a fire as well as an incident with a security can,” said senior Kevin Brommer, current TKE colony president.

The security car rumor to which Brommer refers is one of the most common. Every year, many students and faculty hear or believe that a security car was stolen and Joel Lake. There are other explanations as well, including destruction of the fraternity’s own house (commonly called ‘the brothe’ of Phi Kappa Tau) and one story most students probably don’t believe.

“I heard that they were already in bad standing with the administration. Someone decided to wear all black and mask and burn a wooden bible on a pole. If you try to be good guys and put it out,” said senior Daniel Steinberg, one of the founders of TKE’s current rebirth. “The school did an investigation and turned it out it was TKE. I heard that there was a fire as well.”

The colony’s brothers are trying to put the past behind them and finally start a new chapter of TKE in RIDER.

“We care to find out in the beginning and all the rumors came up,” said junior John Stowers, a founder and former president. “We hope the school decides that it doesn’t matter anymore. That’s why we put this all down as ‘Okay yeah, for whatever reason we have here. We don’t want to hear that again.’”

A group of brothers from Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE) celebrate after awarding bids to several prospective members last Friday, Feb. 10. The colony is in its way to becoming a chapter once more after TKE had its charter revoked in 1980.

Grammy winners recognize WCC dean

By Jess Decina

In addition to dabbling in student affairs and furthering the academic principal of West Chester University College (WCC), Dean of the College Emmy Steinberg has also been recognized for his music-making talents in the highest form: a Grammy nomination.

Anns plays clarinet for College New Music, a small group that was originally the clarinet section of the Boston Symphony. The ensemble was nominated for Best Classical Solo Performance – a category previously unheard of for a student in the classical field for in rendition of John Harbsion’s “Mottetti di Montale.”

Anns said he performed the clarinet for music of this kind to continue to be written, and the nomination supports that notion, he said.

“The Grammy indicates that there are people that recognize the talent and what you do,” he said. “Just as important as the fact that College has decided itself to performing music of living composers.”

The honours comes as no surprise to the WCC community. The dean’s nomination echoes many of the awards and honors garnered by faculty and alums of the school, according to Christian Stück, a junior and music major.

“It’s really wonderful to have [those] talented individuals on campus. [In] the West Chester community we go and achieve great things,” he said.

Achieving honor at a national level has great students like Karlin Manca, a musical theater major, more reasons to keep on track up to faculty members like Anns, Manca, a junior, finds great ambition in using faculty members who “still perform, still compete, still achieve and win” during their careers.

“It’s really good for us as students to look up to the faculty who are achieving those honours and awards and know that somewhere that’s where we’ll be headed,” said Anns.

Anns and his wife flew out on Tuesday morning, Feb. 7, attending a ceremony honoring lifetime achievements and other honours, followed by a special reception for all nominees that night. On Wednesday Anns also attended both Grammy Awards show – there a live concert and pre-show performance.

“There are 10 awards that are given out each year and only 1 of those you were done on,” he said. “Ninety- seven of the awards were done earlier in the day.”

The fact that Anns returned to Princeton sans trophy hasn’t disappointed the West Chester community. The ensemble’s nomination alone has drawn just looking for their faculty to start up again.

“They did their research and they came back with Tau Kappa Epsilon and just so happened that just about the same time the alums of TKE on our campus had contacted alumni relations and said we would really like to start their chapter up again,” said Director of Greek Life Arif Badgley. “Ironically enough, it all came together that fall.”

Badgley and some alumni, along with the three founders, then started to work with the fraternity’s national headquarters.

For a colony to be established there are no financial requirements, but support from alumni is needed in the form of an advisory board, according to Badgley. In August 2004, the permission to start a colony was granted and in the spring of 2005, TKE had 20 more recruited and was ready to set up, Steinberg said.

“Right now they’re a colony, kind of like a stepping stone,” said Badgley. “They have a lot of requiring steps they need to fill and once they fill all those requirements they’ll get chartered.”

Badgley and Steinberg said the colony could receive a charter at the end of this semester or next semester, according to the fraternity’s national headquarters.

“Our membership is one of our big things. We need to have a certain amount of hours of community service,” said Steinberg. “We need to have some sort of GPA. Also, we need to go to conventions and regional conferences.”

The colony will be adding to its current pledge class. Anyone interested can attend the ceremony.

“If you want to know where we are, just look for the guys with red and black ties,” said Stowers. “TKE is looking to enhance our community. We’ve only been here for a year, but we’re making strides already.”

College students are infamous coffee addicts, and Rider happily caters to our need for a daily caffeine burst with several on-campus stops.

The campus hot spot and favorite in Java City, which has a selection of both bottled coffees and gourmet-inspired teas. The coffees come in standard flavors and sizes — there isn’t a noticeable big difference between each flavor, so be overwhelmed by its choices and just grab a cup of French Roast.

Coffee connoisseurs take note, as Java City’s specialty drinks do not compare to real espresso beverages. Most of its drinks are easily made at home, for example, a cappuccino is equal parts espresso, steamed milk, and foam. Java City’s come with or without whipped cream and has absolutely no aftertaste. However, its moccas are indeed its best offering and are an excellent mix of milk chocolate and espresso.

If you don’t have time to wait in the Java City line — or always extra extends out of Sweigert Hall — then the Cranberry Café has a customer dedicated to coffee. The Cranberry Café also get quite crowded, especially around lunch, but the coffee is as satisfying as any in campus and has absolute no need to be wasted gas and battle for parking; getting coffee doesn’t have to be a big production when you can just stroll over to Java City and grab a medium-sized mocha.