Rho Chapter Quick Facts

Chapter Houses

1909-13  150 13th AV (Lambda Alpha local)
1913-1916  2018 N. High ST at 18th AV ("ElJan")
1917-21  1917 Waldeck AV (at 15th AV)
1921-22  8 E. 15th AV
1922-23  2005 Waldeck AV
1923-24  175 13th AV
1924-25  1928 N. High ST
1925-27  172 15th AV
1927-1940  226 17th AV (owned)
1940-present  134 E. 15th AV (built)
1946-?  Additional rented annex ("Enchanted Cottage")
1971-76  Additional rented annex
        (Mildred Barnes housemother in 1972)

The Terrace Room was added in 1963, a second and third storey added over the TR in 1976. The dorm was eliminated in 2000.

Housemothers/House Directors

1914  Maud Hathaway
1914-18  Jennie Rader
1920  Mrs. Bradley
1921  Kathryn Buck
1922  Ruth Greene
1923-24  Jennie Rader
1928  Mrs. Snyder
1930-31  Eva Voris
1932-40  Marie Birney
1940  Mrs. Carpenter
1940-55  Nettie Green
1956-65  Helen Brown
1965-82  Virginia White
1982-84  Cecelia Graham
1984-85  Pat Scanlin
1986-87       Toni Cable
1987-88       Connie Weber
1988-89       Lou William
1990         June Newberry
1991         Elizabeth Berry
1992-93      Carrie Bauman
1994-95      Diana Biddle
1996        Ruth MacEachen
1997        Kristi Gilles
1998-99      Fran Taylor
2000       Diane Leider
2001        Kim Ebright
2002-03    Christina McNamara
2004-5       Sandie Lynch
2006-09      Char Henkaline

Other Facts:

- Aunt Ginny was the longest serving housemother—17 years, followed by Mrs. Greene at 15 years.

- Phi were Lantern editors in 1918 and in 1937.

- In 1936 seven of 13 pledges were named “Betty” or “Elizabeth”.

- In 1938, a year in which our house mascot, a dog named Boo, met his demise, 11 or 12 “Bettrys” lived in the chapter house at the same time.

- In 1939 there were five pairs of biological sisters in the chapter.

- Four of the original Block “O” members in 1938 were Alpha Phis.

- Makio editors in 1944, 1945, 1965 and 1967 were Alpha Phis.

- The Encore editor in 1981 was an Alpha Phi

- Alpha Phi was Makio Sorority of the year in 1952.
Mistletoe Misses were Phis in 1952 and 1953. In 1949 a Phi was Sweetheart Ball Queen, chosen by Actor Burt Lancaster.

Miss American Teenager was an Alpha Phi in 1967. A Miss Columbus reigned in 1975; Military Ball Queen in 1935; Quarterdeck Ball Queens in 1960 and 1964.


Phi Beta Kappas were chosen from Rho in 1916, 1918, 1931, 1934, 1937, 1939, 1945, 1949, and 1967. Countless Phis were tapped for Scholaris, Mirrors, Chimes, Mortar Board and Archons scholastic honoraries as well as those in their major fields of study.


Traditions have been Halloween parties, marshmallow roasts, selling hot wiener sandwiches as fund-raisers, garden parties; from 1946, a Dawn Dance beginning at 7 am. Mock New Year’s Eve parties in November. Christmas parties for underprivileged children. Joint events with Denison’s chapter. Dads’ Day. Pi Phi-D6-Phi Triad formal from the Fifties. Senior sendoff, parents’ day cookouts, to Red Dress Ball in the 2000’s. An early tradition of campus actresses coming from AΦ.


Philanthropy has taken many forms: Bounce for Beats basketball toss, red balloons, heart-shaped lollipops, Sun Tan contest, Track
Extra, extra

Chris Hronek, a junior majoring in business, passes out coupon books for an Alpha Phi fund-raiser.
Alpha Phi startled by late night intrusion

By Gwen Haven
Lantern staff writer

A surprised woman awoke early Sunday morning to find a man in the "dorm room" of her sorority house on 15th Avenue.

On April 6, at 1:21 a.m. the woman awoke and noticed the man lurking in the sleeping quarters of the Alpha Phi house. She screamed and ran out of the room. The suspect fled in an unknown direction.

Moments later, Columbus police were notified of the incident by a sorority member who said she called 911. The responding officers found the screen cut out of a first floor window. The window had been left open and it is suspected that the man gained entry to the house through this window.

A witness saw the suspect running after the woman who first noticed his presence. Officers searched the house with the help of police canine and turned up no one inside.

The victims intend to prosecute if the suspect is found. He is described as a black male, age 19-20, wearing black pants and a red sweatshirt.

The case is still open and a detective has been assigned.

Neither the chapter president nor sorority members of neighboring houses would comment about the incident.
Celeste supports student trustee

by Margo Rutledge
Lantern staff writer

Financial aid and the appointment of student representatives on the Board of Trustees were the main concerns of students who showed up Wednesday night to hear Gov. Richard F. Celeste speak at the Ohio Union and later in Baker Hall.

Celeste told USG President Brian Hicks that he supports Democratic State Rep. Mike Stinziano's legislation of making students voting members on the Board of Trustees.

"I believe it's important to have students sit in on the highest levels of deliberation of universities," he said.

Celeste's visit to the campus was sponsored by Ohio and Drake Unions Activities, Undergraduate Student Government and the Office of Women's Services. A student at Baker Hall questioned Celeste about the drinking age issue.

Celeste said that he resents the federal government telling the states to either raise the drinking age or lose state highway funds.

"I think it's lousy... especially for a state like Ohio where we put the question to the people of our state and they said, 'Keep the drinking age at 19,'" he said.

"I think we'll probably end up going along with bad federal policy because we can't afford not to," he said.

Regarding financial aid, Celeste said his administration increased funding for the Ohio Instructional Grant and increased income eligibility. Celeste said financial assistance for "single heads of households" must be made available.

The governor also said the paper work needs to be simplified in the financial aid department.

"We need a one stop financial aid, where you fill in a single form and it's up to the university to fit you into the best places." He said the form, which should include both state and federal aid, was his wife's suggestion.

Lisa Herhold, left, a junior from Sandusky, and Saundra Gabrier, a senior from Upper Arlington, enjoy dinner with Gov. Richard F. Celeste Wednesday night at the Alpha Phi sorority.

One student asked what the governor's reaction would be if his opponent, former Gov. James A. Rhodes, invited President Reagan to Ohio to appear with him.

"I guess I'd invite him to stay an extra day or two so we could show him how to balance the budget."
Police ID woman injured in fall from Ohio State sorority house window

A woman was in critical condition early Thursday after she was reported to have fallen out a third-story window at a sorority house near the Ohio State University campus.

Kalynn E. Smith, 29, suffered potentially life-threatening injuries from the fall at the Alpha Phi sorority, 134 E. 15th Ave., Columbus police said.

Emergency responders were called to the sorority house at 3:20 a.m. Smith was transported to Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, where she was in surgery early Thursday.

Columbus police later said Smith is expected to survive her injuries.

The fall appeared to be an accident, police said Thursday.

Ohio State's online student directory lists Smith as a marketing major in the business college.