

From the Association president...

This space highlights current issues and meetings as well as upcoming events, decisions, and volunteer “opportunities”.

Keith Kaniut

July 16, 2007 –“A-Section” academics begins today. My son begins his junior year in mechanical engineering and continues to enjoy the challenge and fun of his Kettering education. It’s hard to believe it’s been two years since he first started.



This also marks the end of my first year as your Association president. The former president Ralph Gruss and I switched jobs last year in July when he agreed to serve as Vice President until his son’s graduation. Since Ralph’s son graduated in March and is now earning his living in the real world (and paying back student loans no doubt!), Ralph has stepped down as Vice President, becoming our first “Honorary Lifetime Member” in recognition of his generous (and continuing) service to the Association over the past six years.

As an example of his dedication, Ralph drove down from his home over on the northwestern side of the state to help man our information table in Thompson Hall on “A-section” Orientation Day (July 12th). We also expect to see him again on Family Day in August. He and Ken Walker (whose grandson starts his second year) talked to many new parents who had to pass our table while in line for various check-in activities (great location!). In addition to providing information Ralph and Ken sold a record number of Gold Cards (the lower \$5 price is quite popular) and obtained more than thirty new parent email addresses.

Sue Rieger (Association Secretary) and I manned the table in the Main Hall. We also met many new freshman parents and obtained email addresses from several who were interested in being notified by email about issues, events and volunteer opportunities. Thanks to all who signed up. It will make our job easier and is more efficient than contacting everyone by regular mail.

In the Association meeting on August Family Day, Treasurer Deborah Stewart will report the results of our sales for Gold Cards and T-shirts. We will have more T-shirts available then (\$10 each). **(The meeting time is still TBD. Look for an update here by July 25th.)**

Board Elections

In our April meeting we discussed soliciting and introducing new candidates for the board positions during Orientation Day but that turned out to be impractical. The university graciously gave me five minutes to speak about the association at the start of the afternoon Parents Information session but there wasn’t enough time to cover

candidates (the new parents were too busy with Orientation activities to attend a meeting that morning, the only time available on the schedule).

So we're running with "Plan B". With Plan B we ask for candidates during Orientation Day, by email and on this web site between Orientation Day and Family Day and post the names of any candidates on this web site. Voting will be done on Family Day. We realize that it's an imperfect system because "B-Section" will be under-represented. (If you have a better idea, we are open to suggestions.)

Between now and the Family Day meeting, anyone interested in being a candidate for one of the board positions please **contact me by email or phone**. All board positions are voted on each year so anyone can become **President, VP or Secretary**. New this year is the addition of two new positions for each section: "**Section Representatives**".

One of the benefits of being a Parent volunteer is the chance to meet the faculty and staff who are responsible for making Kettering the outstanding educational opportunity it remains. Even more fun than this, you will meet the impressive young men and women who are attracted to Kettering University and its rigorous academic and professional education.

I've really enjoyed my time in the Association. My attitude is: Why should my son have all the fun here? I'm paying tuition too... Also, for those parents who live a little farther away and don't see their son or daughter every weekend during the academic session, the Association meetings are a good excuse to come visit without it seeming like you're "checking up" on them.

Please consider becoming an active member of the association. We need your inputs and talents. Over the past year I've talked here about new initiatives we'd like to pursue, including improved communications with all parents through the web site and mailings, hosts for out-of-state students on co-op assignments, Local Emergency contacts, and web-based issues discussion and voting. We need your talents to flesh out the details.

During "A-Section" Orientation Day, sixty parents signed up for email notification. That's a great start for the year.

If you are a "B-Section" parent, don't wait until October. Contact me by phone or email and I'll add you to our email notification list. Also, please send me your name if you wish to be a volunteer or board candidate. Include brief "bio" info like: where you live; your interests, your student's academic major and perhaps any special talents you might bring to the job. Answer the question: "Why do you want to help?"

Cordially,

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