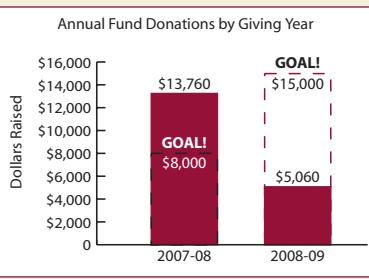


## ANNUAL FUND UPDATE

Last Year's Goal Surpassed with Over \$13,000 in Donations

This Year's Goal is \$15,000

Thanks to all the donors who helped us bring in \$13,760 before the giving year ended on June 30, 2008. We have set a goal of \$15,000 for the 2008-09 giving year. In the first few months of this giving year we have already raised \$5,060. If you haven't made a donation to the annual fund yet, you can do so on our secure website at [www.pika-upenn.org](http://www.pika-upenn.org) or by calling 800-975-6699.



## PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL

New York Dinner Raised \$16,000 and Added 12 New President's Council Members

This past July, **Bruce Wolfson '71** co-hosted a dinner in New York at the Penn Club for the benefit of the Educational Foundation's President's Council. PC members commit to contribute \$1,000 per year in unrestricted funds to the Fraternity's Educational Foundation. Beta Pi is tied with Zeta Sigma at Florida Atlantic University, having the second most alumni members, thirteen, within PIKA. Among the 35 men in attendance at the dinner were **Adam Michaels '98**, **Gregg Ormond '74** and **Joel Catania '71**. The event raised approximately \$16,000 and added 12 new members to the PC. Another PC dinner will be held in Coral Gables Florida at the Historic Biltmore Hotel on November 10, 2008. All Pikes who are in the area are welcome to attend. Contact Gregg Ormond at [gjo@ormondlaw.com](mailto:gjo@ormondlaw.com)

October 2008

# Slices of Beta Pi

[www.pika-upenn.org](http://www.pika-upenn.org)

The Alumni Newsletter of the Beta Pi Chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity

## FOUNDERS' DAY 2008

Almost 100 Brothers Joined Together for the 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of Pi Kappa Alpha

Commemorated the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our House at 3916 Spruce Street and Undergrad Awards Presented

By Joel Catania

On March 29th, 35 alumni joined almost 60 undergraduates at the Inn at Penn in Philadelphia to celebrate Founders' Day. This year marked the 140th anniversary of the founding of Pi Kappa Alpha at the University of Virginia.

*"With alumni from the forties through the 2000's coming from places as far away as Florida, Canada, California and Switzerland it was clear that the bonds of Beta Pi brotherhood spanning generations and miles are as strong as ever."*

The evening's theme was dedicated to the 40th anniversary of the occupation of the chapter house at 3916 Spruce Street. Brothers **Rich Myers '69** and **Mark Perna '68** provided some personal insights on what it was like for the brothers who were involved in the transition from the old house on Locust Walk to the new house on Spruce Street. Mark shared how the brotherhood coped when they found themselves without housing at the beginning of the school year because the new house was not yet ready. He detailed the ways the brothers scrambled to assist getting the house ready for occupancy.

**Dave Deldotto '67** followed with a video presentation that included some notable Pike references. He also commented on the world of the late sixties as compared to today from the perspective of college students of each era.



Anniversary celebrants: **Dave Kuhn '03**, **Matt Paris '03**, **Nirmal Roy '03**, **Ryan Tracy '03**, **Paul Newman '73**, **John Eldred '63**, **Dan Darkes '68**, **Mark Perna '68**, **Joseph Hess '48** and **Dick Sheridan '48**.

Later in the evening, the undergraduates presented their annual SLAG (Scholar, Leader, Athlete and Gentleman) awards to **Mahdi Saranadasa**, **Justin Levine**, **Marty Mannion** and **Eric Hoffman**. **Jerry Herman '72** presented the Dave Herman scholarship award to **Brendan Dutch**. Alumni association President **Joel Catania '71** presented certificates to nine alumni celebrating five year anniversaries. The anniversaries spanned 60 years, from **Joseph Hess** and **Dick Sheridan**, both class of '48 to five years for **Dave Kuhn**, **Matt Paris**, **Nirmal Roy** and **Ryan Tracy**, all members of the class of 2003.

With alumni from the 40's through the 2000's coming from places as far away as Florida (**Dan Darkes '68**), Canada (**Mark Perna '68**), California (**Joel Levine '70**, **Ken Widelitz '69** and **Paul Zaentz '69**) and Switzerland (**Steve Leventhal '67**), it was clear that the bonds of Beta Pi brotherhood spanning generations and miles are as strong as ever.

## BETA PI LEGACY FUND

### Endowment Goal of \$350,000 to Help Fund Leadership and Educational Conferences

***With Commitments to Help from Only a Handful of Brothers We're at One Third of Our Goal***

**By Gregg Ormond '74**

A few years ago the International Fraternity rolled out its revamped leadership and educational training programs collectively called Pike University. It consists of Regional Leadership Summits (held in various locations around the country for the benefit of all chapter members), The Academy and Chapter Executive Conference (targeted at chapter officers held every January and in the summers of odd numbered years), The International Convention (held in various cities around the country in even numbered summers for the benefit of all undergraduate and alumni members), A Volunteer Forum (for alumni who mentor undergraduate members or serve on alumni associations and house corporations) and The True Pike Challenge, an outdoor survival program held in Boulder, Colorado for select undergrads and alumni volunteers. These programs are

considered the very best in the fraternity world and are presented by top notch educators and organized by the fraternity's professional staff.

While a portion of the cost of these programs is funded by the Fraternity's Educational Foundation, there remains a considerable expense associated with registration fees, food costs, and travel/hotel expenses. Your alumni association has formed a pilot program with the Educational Foundation called the Beta Pi Legacy Fund through which we hope to create an endowment of sufficient size that will generate enough funds to subsidize our undergraduate leaders' expenses associated with attendance at these superb leadership events. The alumni who made annual cash contributions over the last five years to help defray these expenses were able to watch as

those undergraduate leaders who attended returned to the chapter invigorated with new ideas and drive. Now, however, is the time to ensure this leadership training will benefit Beta Pi in perpetuity.

Our endowment goal is \$350,000 and we presently have commitments for approximately one third of that sum from just a handful of brothers. Members of the Legacy Fund committee will be calling on alumni to support this endeavor through tax deductible contributions to the Fraternity's Educational Fund in the near future. **If you would like more information on how you can support this worthy endeavor contact Gregg Ormond at 305-336-5500 or gjo@ormondlaw.com; Bruce Wolfson at 917-363-2954, bruce.wolfson@rohatyngroup.com or Jerry Herman at 301-529-8677, JerryHerman@aol.com.**

## CONVENTION UPDATE

Beta Pi had its largest contingent in the past 50 years at this bi-annual event, with two undergraduates and six alumni in attendance, including two members of the Supreme Council, **Bruce Wolfson '71** and **Justin Levine '05**.

During the convention, Bruce was not only appointed to resume his role as a Trustee of the Iika Educational Foundation, a position that he held prior to his election to the Supreme Council, but was also named Secretary/Treasurer of that body, in-line to serve as President in two years.



**Justin Levine '05, Jake Levine '70, Jerry Herman '72, Bruce Wolfson '71 and Rich Sussman '69**, all former Chapter Presidents, standing in front of the Memorial Headquarters Building in Memphis, TN on August 1, 2008.



**Dave Edman '73 Justin Levine '05, Rich Sussman '69, Jerry Herman '72 and Jake Levine '70** gathered at the reception before the President's Banquet at the International Convention at the Peabody Hotel in Memphis TN. Justin, as a Supreme Council Undergraduate Vice President is wearing the formal "uniform" that all international officers wear to the final event.



**Dave Edman '73 and Jake Levine '70** at the Educational Foundation Dinner for Donors on August 1, 2008.

# ALUMNUS PROFILE

## Former President of Beta Pi Now Serving as an Alumni Advisor

**Glenn Goldstein '00 Shares His Experiences with Undergrads to Help Keep the Chapter Strong**

### Why did you choose to join Pi Kappa Alpha?

That's a funny story actually. When I came to Penn, I had no intention of joining a fraternity and initially only attended rush events for the free food. However, after hanging out with the brothers during the two weeks of rush, I decided, along with a group of my friends, that the chapter and the house were the right fit for us.

### What was fraternity life like during your time at Penn?

Many of us took classes together, ate dinner together at the house, hung out in each others' rooms and spent the majority of our weekends having fun in the basement before late night runs to Pat's. We were also very competitive about intramural sports versus other fraternities.

**"Originally I wasn't sure what I could contribute, but I realized after spending time back in the house that I can help the chapter avoid reiterating some of the mistakes we made when I was an undergrad."**

### What kind of influence has being a Pi Kappa Alpha had on your life?

I sometimes joke that serving as President of Beta Pi was the toughest job I've had. I dealt with \$17,000 in debt, the weekly challenge to improve our relationship with the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs and having to appease brothers in the chapter who didn't always feel the same way. As a result, I learned a lot about leadership, compromise and the importance of being an excellent Beirut player to settle disputes. I never thought about Pi Kappa Alpha from a networking perspective when I was in school, but both of my job changes since then have been the result of introductions made by Beta Pi brothers.

### Do you stay in contact with any brothers?

I've stayed in contact with most of the brothers from my year as well as many who



Glenn Goldstein '00

graduated within a few years of me. Two of my teammates on a soccer team in Philly are Beta Pi alums.

### Did you have a nickname during college and if so how did you get it?

"Scrap" – I don't like to see leftovers go to waste and I also developed an expertise in the low-cost acquisition of party supplies. "Rabbi" – I was one of the few Jewish brothers during my time and my Beta Pi brothers were a marvelously creative group of gentlemen.

### What were some of your favorite events from when you were an undergrad?

One of my favorite events every other year was tailgating for the Penn-Princeton football game. Another memorable event was our Date Auction Fundraiser where we teamed with a sorority to raise money for Cancer Research by auctioning off dinners with brothers who advertised their appeal in an on-stage performance.

### What are some of your greatest memories of Pi Kappa Alpha?

In no particular order, both during school and as an alumni... being the best man in a Beta Pi brother's wedding and getting to know his family, doing a West Coast road trip with three other brothers and staying at multiple Pi Kappa Alpha houses along the way, the two weeks of rush every January, watching a Beta Pi brother finish in the top 10 of the Army Best Ranger Competition, a packed basement with everyone belting out 'Livin' on a Prayer' and going to the World Cup in Germany with five other Beta Pi's.

### Did you live in the house?

I spent three years in the house and was lucky enough to have a single each time. I find it amazing how little my hallmates' living habits have changed since college. The messy ones are still incredibly messy

(regardless of attempts otherwise from girlfriends or wives) and the late-night guys still hate waking up early.

### Why do you choose to support Pi Kappa Alpha years later?

I was urged by another Beta Pi to take on the role of alumni advisor after moving back to Philly. Originally I wasn't sure what I could contribute, but I realized after spending time back in the house that I can help the chapter avoid reiterating some of the mistakes we made when I was an undergrad. After putting so much effort into the chapter, I want to know it's in good hands.

### Why do you feel it is important as alumni to give back?

Even as a younger alumnus, I can recognize that my relationships with brothers from my years are still relatively easy to maintain but that will become tougher over time. A strong chapter and a strong alumni association help preserve those relationships. In addition, I think coming back to the chapter house for Homecoming or Founders' Day is important. Just hearing "how the house used to be" has an impact on the undergrads. In addition, it's good for alumni of various generations to interact. Even if the goal is to resolve a dispute of Beer Pong versus Beirut, I've never heard an alumnus say they regret coming back.

### Please tell us a little about what you're doing now.

I live in Center City Philadelphia. I grew up in Miami before coming to Penn. I enjoy soccer, reading and watching the downfall of American capitalism. I work for a small investment firm located in the Philadelphia suburbs.

If you know a brother who you would like to nominate to be featured for an alumnus profile, please send an email with your nomination to [content@affinityconnection.com](mailto:content@affinityconnection.com).

## UNDERGRADUATE REPORT

### Chapter Reaches GPA Over 3.2 and Earns Scholarship Award at Convention

**Fall Rush Welcomes Four New Members and Over 20 Expected for Spring**

*By Andrew Ruben*

Last spring, we reached a landmark in GPA. After consistently improving for the past few semesters, we finally reached a chapter GPA of over 3.2. We also earned the scholarship award at the International Pike Convention.

This semester, we implemented a fall rush program. We invited prospective members over for weekly Monday Night Football and brotherhood events at the chapter house. This effort was successful and we have four new members for the fall. This is the first time in many years that a fall rush effort has culminated with a new class. We hope to continue this momentum into the spring with a rush class of 20+ during the formal rush period.

On Sunday, October 26th, we continued our tradition of participating in the Scott Mackler 5K. All our members

went to Delaware to support our brother Scott and raise money and awareness for ALS. This is our largest philanthropy event of the year, thanks to brother participation and alumni support.

We are also proud to have sent 11 brothers to the Pike Leadership Summit in Hartford, CT. This includes many young members who are excited to learn more about what our International Fraternity has to offer.

Our chapter has also been very supportive of Penn Athletics. This will continue during homecoming weekend, where brothers and alumni will attend the Penn game. Additionally, our chapter will be going to Princeton to watch Penn play there on November 7th. We also are looking forward to obtaining season tickets for the upcoming basketball season.

### OFFICERS

#### Undergraduate Officers

##### **President**

**Andrew Ruben '09**

andrewrr@wharton.upenn.edu

##### **External VP**

**Andy Katz '10**

katzac@sas.upenn.edu

##### **Internal VP**

**Samir Sonti '09**

sonti@wharton.upenn.edu

##### **Alumni Relations Chair**

**Dan Keefe '06**

jdkeefe@gmail.com

### Alumni Association Officers

##### **President**

**Joel Catania '71**

Jlclii@aol.com

##### **Vice-President**

**Ross Weiner '80**

gemsc01rw@aol.com

##### **Treasurer**

**Gregg Ormond '74**

gjo@ormondlaw.com

##### **Secretary**

**Larry Israeloff '83**

larryisraeloff@yahoo.com

Find out inside on page 2!  
Where are these brothers?



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Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity