

October 2012

Slices of Beta Pi

www.pika-upenn.org

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

UPCOMING EVENT

2012 Penn Homecoming
October 27
vs. Brown

GUESS WHO?

One Beta Pi alum has the inside scoop on long-range ground launch missiles and Washington's bureaucratic infighting. Nothing "dull as dishwater" about it.

Find out who by checking out our alumni updates on Page 3.

IN MEMORY

We recently learned of the passing of the following brothers:

Lee Marshall '41

David W. Doelp Sr. '50

Our sympathies go out to their families and friends.

ON THE WEB

If you haven't yet registered at www.pika-upenn.org, be sure to do so today! As a registered member, you can:

- Browse the photo albums
- Search for brothers in the directory
- Post to the message boards
- And much more!

To register, you'll need your Member ID (found above your name and address on this newsletter). Then, follow the First Time Login instructions on the home page.

CONVENTION UPDATE

Enlightened Undergrads Inspired to do Something "Big" *Convention Drives Ambition and Insight for Young Members Thanks to Alum Support*

By Dan Keefe '06, Member of Alumni Advisory Board

First, I'd like to thank the alumni for assisting the undergraduates' travel to Denver, Colorado. Convention could not have been successful without your support. This year, Beta Pi's undergraduate contingent was composed of four rising sophomores, representing a significant increase in previous years. Before the end of Convention, the four undergrads reflected about their first Convention experience. Here are some of the lessons they learned, in their own words:

- "Meet with every member and ask three questions: One thing they would like to see done, one thing they want to do, how they want to add to big picture goal."
- "Recruit members after new member education - let's do something BIG!"
- "One thing I noticed is how good we can be, and quickly. We aren't that far away from the top chapters. Symthe is a real vision."
- "More events/more activities that get everyone involved"
- "The importance of the physical house: If you lose the house, you lose the Fraternity. We want to be proud of the house."

I share these thoughts so you can assess where the members of our chapter are. I grew up in an era when Beta Pi wasn't the finest group of members on campus. At my first Pike

University event, I felt alienated because we did not work as a collective group. We did not have a big goal. This has changed. I do not mean to imply the chapter is perfect, as there are many areas that need improvement. However, each of these undergraduates impressed me with their insight and ambition during Convention.

"The importance of the physical house: If you lose the house, you lose the Fraternity. We want to be proud of the house."

The Symthe and Excellence awards are great indicators of chapters working towards a bigger goal. This is on the minds of the four undergraduates. They have taken back the ideas from Convention and will implement them this fall.

On a more personal note, this Convention was my most enjoyable one to date. I was able to reconnect with many other chapter members, and I was able to reunite with my consultant class. Convention was a celebration of the best of Pike. I thank all those who have helped me arrive at this great satisfaction. I can only hope to give back a fraction of what has been given my way.

Registration fees for attending undergraduates are funded from the Beta Pi Endowment Fund at the Foundation; lodging is paid through grants from our Alumni Association's Undergraduate Assistance Fund. Beta Pi will soon be embarking on a campaign to increase the Foundation's Endowment Fund so more educational events for chapter leaders can be underwritten.

FOUNDERS' DAY

Celebrating Unprecedented Growth with Our New "Upsilon" Class

In March, more than 80 alums and undergrads celebrated Founders' Day at The Restaurant School at Walnut Hill College. Alumni traveled from as far away as Canada, Washington, California, Florida and even Switzerland to reunite with old acquaintances and meet our young brothers.

Chapter President **Parker Schabel** welcomed everyone and provided a very encouraging summary of the active chapter, its philanthropic efforts, and goals for the future.

New Member Educator **Keelen Collins** presented the new pledge class - the "Upsilon" class.

The 24-member class is the largest since 1999 and the fifth largest in the 92-year history of the chapter (with the exception of two "charter" years). Each member was introduced by name, hometown and educational goals.

Alumni Association President **Joel Catania '71** addressed the undergraduates by suggesting that a fraternity chapter is not unlike a successful sports team. Both require that a set of rules and strategies be formulated. And both require that a core group of driven leaders and veterans work to see that every member understands his role in building a winning team, no matter how small or obscure it might seem. He reminded the young brothers and pledges that the alumni association is ready to support the chapter and announced that once again Beta Pi retains its first place standing among all chapters with 15 members of the President's Council, eight of whom were in attendance.

Founders' Day proved to be a tremendous success! The face-to-face interaction between alumni and undergraduates provided valuable input for both sides, as each strives to improve Beta Pi and strengthen the bonds of brotherhood.

To read a full recap of 2012 Founders' Day, please visit our online community at www.pika-upenn.org.



2012 Founders' Day Award Recipients

Anniversary Loyalty Recognition:

Andy Katz '07
Jerry Herman '72
Rich Epstein '72
Steve Leventhal '67
Don Schrieber '47

Dave Herman Memorial Scholarship Recipient:

Derek Fischer

Undergraduate SLAG Awards:

Pat Malone, John Stuckey, Tyler Citek and George Igoe

Alumni Appreciation Award:

Joel Catania '71

SUPPORTING BROTHERS

Alums to Rally Behind One of Their Own to Support Fight Against ALS

Join Us for the 13th Annual Scott Mackler 5K Run/Walk on October 28

Our brother, **Scott Mackler '77**, has been battling ALS since 1999. He has defied all odds (average life expectancy is 2-5 years) and continues to lead a productive life thanks to cutting edge assistive technology that allows equipment to interface with his brain while his body is paralyzed and requires a ventilator to breathe. He continues to run a research lab at UPenn and is an associate professor there.

The Mackler family initiated an annual fundraising effort on behalf of Scott and the ALS Association in the form of a 5K Run/Walk. On October 28th, they are sponsoring the 13th Annual Scott Mackler 5K Run/Walk. All registration fees and donations go to the

assistive technology effort on behalf of ALS patients, enabling more and more of them to continue communicating and lead productive lives as they battle the disease. They have raised nearly \$1.7 million to date and are looking to close in on the \$2 million mark.

A "Beta Pi Pikes" team page has been set up on the race's web site. Beta Pi has been one of the leading supporters of this effort since the Alumni Association was established in 2003, winning the fraternity fundraising category on multiple occasions. Another large contingent of our undergraduate brothers is expected to participate in the event this year, and alumni donations go toward their

registration fees. We've set a goal of \$5,000 and 25 donors. You can do the math: we need 25 brothers donating \$200 each to reach the goal. But we'll take fifty brothers donating \$100 or one hundred brothers donating \$50. No amount is too small!!

You can donate online at: <http://mackler2012.kintera.org/5k/betapipikes>. This will get you to our team page. Click on the "General Donation" tab and you can make a credit card pledge. Please open your hearts and wallets to support this cause and our brother.

ALUMNI UPDATES

Dave Jones '63

(409 South Garfield Street, Arlington, VA 22204; jonesdt@aol.com) I am just finishing the editing of a book on the INF Treaty (The Reagan-Gorbachev Arms Control Breakthrough). It will commemorate the 25th anniversary of the signing of the INF Treaty (eliminating all long range and shorter range ground launched missiles) on December 8, 1987. It is a fascinating story combining negotiations, infighting in Washington's bureaucracy, and the politics of Senate ratification. It's hardly "dull as dishwater" diplomacy.

Andrew Miscio '63

(316 W. Olive Street, Ft. Collins, CO 80521; miscio@fiii.com) I am mostly retired from my commercial real estate brokerage firm (Miscio Real Estate Services, Inc.) and enjoy giving classes and lectures on selling and investing in commercial and investment real estate. I continue to be blessed with a fantastic wife after being married for 44 years, and have three delightful grandchildren. I love living in Fort Collins, Co. and retain fond memories of Beta Pi!

Richard H. Epstein '74

(3101 Boardwalk 1505 II Ocean, Atlantic City, NJ 08401; rhe@comcast.net) I'll be taking a six month sabbatical this year at Vanderbilt University in the Department of Anesthesia to do a number of research projects in biomedical informatics. As House Corp President, I oversaw a number of projects this summer at the chapter house, including renovation of the 2nd floor and basement bath-

rooms, retreading the rear firewall staircase, and replacing radiators in the chapter room.

Mitchell D. Goldsmith '75

(1029 N. East Avenue, Oak Park, IL 60302; mgoldsmith@shefsky.com) I am busy practicing corporate and securities law at Shefsky & Froelich in Chicago. But I get most of my fun running down to our seaside home in Punta Gorda, Fla. with my wife Sandy and my three adult children. I enjoy fishing light tackle on the flats out our backdoor for redfish, snook, sea trout, flounder and pompano. Send me an email if you want to wet a line some time.



Paul J. Reszutek '79

(23 West Sandpiper Lane, Lake Forest, Illinois 60045; preszutek@deloitte.com) We relocated to the Chicago area this summer. Lori and I will be tuition-poor empty nesters. Our son Brian will begin his third year at the University of Chicago, and twin daughters Sara and Dana are freshmen at Penn and NYU, respectively. Who would have thought that my one Penn legacy would be at the best sports school?

Mitchell Karig '80

(7 Westbury Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10301; emmemmkay@aol.com) I mar-

ried my partner of more than 30 years, Neal Glennon, at the Hudson Theatre in Manhattan on July 15.

Robert Epstein '83

(65 Updikes Mill Road, Belle Mead, NJ 08502; rob.epstein@comcast.net) I live in the Princeton area in NJ with my wife Eileen and four kids. My oldest started at Duke this year. I am a partner in University Radiology in central NJ and have served as president for the last nine years.

Adam Michaels '97

(34 Hastings Drive, Tenafly, NJ 07670; adam.michaels@gmail.com) I recently moved out of the city with my family to Tenafly, NJ. My wife Natalya is still enjoying her role at Eton Park Capital, and our sons, Gregory (5) and Alexander (2) are enjoying the freedom of a backyard and a playroom to run around in. I am a Principal at Booz & Company, a management consulting firm, specializing in the consumer industry. Our 15-year reunion is coming up, and I'm looking forward to seeing everybody!

Daniel Kryzanowski '00

(4330 Bull Creek Road Apt 3109, Austin, TX 78731; daniel54@rocketmail.com) I moved back to Austin!

We want to know what's new with you too! Share your news in the alumni updates section at www.pika-upenn.org.

ALUMNI Q&A

Beta Pi: Pushing Limits and Producing Leaders

*Thanks to **Bruce Wolfson '74** for participating in this fall's Q&A:*

Why did you join PiKA over other fraternities?

PiKA's leadership, especially **Rich Sussman '72** and **Jake Levine '73**, had a vision for the chapter that intrigued me. It didn't seem likely, but they delivered on that promise and then some!

How did Beta Pi help make you into the man you are today?

First, it introduced me to the most amazing

group of men I have ever known. Second, it was a cause to which I devoted myself with great passion, pushing myself to new limits. Finally, it made me look at myself differently. I knew I had to change if I was going to become a leader of the chapter. Happily, I had great friends and mentors to help me on that journey.

Tell us about a brother who was a mentor or went beyond the call of duty to help you.

Rich Sussman and Jake Levine, together with **Paul Zaentz '72**, really challenged and encouraged me in my earliest days as a

Pike. They remain my go-to guys when life challenges arise.

If you were walking onto the Penn campus as a young freshman, what advice would you give to the younger you?

Join Pike. If you can't join Pike, join something that really matters to you and pursue it with passion and dedication. It's the best way to test and expand your limits, which is why you are at Penn.

Connect with Bruce at bawolfson@msn.com.

WHAT YOU TOLD US

Stakeholder Audit Paves the Path for Improvement

Beta Pi is at an important crossroads. Our alumni involvement and support has plateaued. We must engage more alumni and undergraduates to move our chapter forward.

We are fortunate to have a strong core of donors and volunteers who are passionate about improving our chapter. That's why we recently asked Affinity Connection, our alumni relations firm, for help. They conducted a stakeholder audit of those members involved with the chapter (stakeholders are different groups that have an interest in an organization).

Yes, member loyalty is strong, but we can't rest on the laurels of our strengths. The

research audit also uncovered these areas that need to be addressed:

- Beta Pi needs to improve communications among alumni and undergraduates to help build a sense of unity across the brotherhood.
- We must institute a better plan for house improvements.
- Internally, there should be greater board consensus and a solid strategy in place when it comes to financial decisions and event planning.
- Finally, the actives must learn the life lesson of accountability.

The good news is that we can move forward! Beta Pi's leadership needs to establish open lines of frequent communications, engage in better short- and long-term planning, commit to a plan to achieve goals and recruit those who will work the plan.

We hear you and we see where we need to work together to strengthen Beta Pi for a bright future!

A special thanks to all of those donors, volunteers, board members, alumni, and active undergraduates who participated in our research project.

ON THE WEB

We're Missing Email Addresses for 63% of Our Alumni!

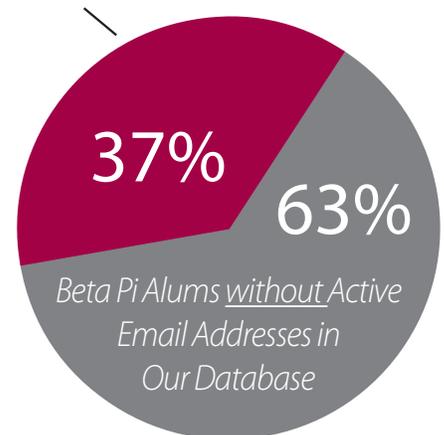
Beta Pi sends an eLetter to alumni each month with news, updates and event details, as well as periodic emails with opportunities for you to share your news and updates on our web site and in *Slices of Beta Pi*.

We currently have active email addresses for just 37% of our living alumni. With the increasing cost of postage, we would like to rely more on e-communications to keep you informed. By providing us with your email address, you are saving money for Beta Pi. With these savings, we can invest more in our alumni events and programs that will keep you connected to the chapter.

If you aren't receiving our e-letters, please send an email to content@affinityconnection.com (mention Pi Kappa Alpha at Penn). You can also access our lost email address on our website at www.pika-upenn.org.

Thanks for helping us to stay connected with you more frequently and cost effectively!

Beta Pi Alumni with Active Email Addresses in Our Database



Total living alumni: 1,060

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