

Where Have The Beta Alpha Particles Been?

It's been many years, but finally they are back in print!

By Ryan Spadaccini

Undergraduate Archon 2003

Well it's been one to many semesters, make that years, since a Beta Alpha Particles has actually been put together. This however is the first of many improvements that are being made in the Undergraduate Chapter. In this issue you will find plans for a new house, and a new code of ethics. Much has changed this semester and much has been accomplished, and the future is wide open in front of us.

This semester alone we have half the amount of associate members as brothers. To be exact, we have twenty-one active brothers and next semester we will have thirty. We already have at least five more respectable guys that are very interested in pursuing the journey of brotherhood with Pi Kappa Phi. The past two years and more years to come we have sponsored an Annual Dance-a-thon, all money raised was donated to the Spina Bifida Association of the Tri-State Area. Next year however we are going to switch donations to Push America.

The chapter has currently been in perfect standing with National, attending every national conference with strong representation. We have also been attending Push Weekends with strong representation, when the location allows us. Unfortunately National has had a hard time putting events together in the Northeast.

Throughout this newsletter you will find many updates on what the chapter and it's brother have been doing. From riding across country on the Journey of Hope, helping out with Push America, and sadly the reprinted article of Blackball's death from the Star and Lamp.

Alumni Relations, it's so vital to keeping the chapter running and keeping it vibrant with old faces and new faces meeting up from time to time. That's what makes Founder's Day so great. Now the undergraduates can always use some help from time to time. As far back as I can remember, well that's only five years,

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Housing Committee Report

By John E. Pugliesi

Board of Overseers President

Since last year, the Housing Committee has had several meetings to review possible alternatives for the future housing for Beta Alpha. The committee explored four different alternatives and the following is the results of the research and studies of these alternatives:

1. Renovating of the existing structure and adding second and third floors over the party room. The professional services of brother Chuck Dietz, Registered Architect, was retained to prepare some preliminary sketches to determine the maximum number of bedrooms and brothers the expanded house could support. This plan could support a total of 34 beds in 19 rooms. A financial analysis determined that minimum of 38-40 beds was required to cover the cost. After a length discussion it was determined that this opinion was too expense with too many unknown costs on the renovation portion of this plan. The rooms were too small and would not be able to compete with the school dormitory rooms in both cost and quality of living.

2. Construction of a new structure on the existing property This plan requires obtaining permission from the City to demolish the existing structure and construct a new Chapter House, since the property has been placed in the James Street Commons Historic District. Before starting a site plan, we received a letter from the City of Newark Board of Education requesting permission to enter onto our property for the purpose of surveying for the possible future home for a new elementary school. The City is still in the planning stages, so this might affect the future of the BA Chapter House. Therefore, all plans on this proposal were halted until we have more information on the City plan.

3. The purchase of other properties that will fit our needs. At this time we under preliminary negotiation on a building that might fit our requirements, however we have no further details to report at this time. We will need a due

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meetings have been on Monday nights at 9:30pm, and rituals on Wednesday nights. It would be great if Alumni could stop by on these nights to help us out. Believe it or not we do enjoy listening to stories of how the house 'used to be.'

You will also notice in this issue there is an alumni event planned and we are always open to ideas to get our older brothers to come around again. There is also a lot of information located next to this article on how to donate to the Capital Account to help continue with the plans for our house, whichever may be the most suitable for us. Keep in mind this is all contingent on what the city and state decide to do with our property. Also there is information on where and how you can get in contact with the Undergraduate Chapter.

I would also like to inform everyone of a new Chapter Advisor, Eric Burgos, BA 645. He has been so very helpful to us in his first term. He is there every step of the way and is there exactly when you need advice; he is a 'brother.' Just like all of you and I. I have been in this great fraternity they call Pi Kappa Phi for just under five years now, and have enjoyed every moment of it. There have been tough times and fun times, but oh so worth it in the end, as I am sure all of you can relate. Thanks for being my brothers, and don't forget you can still enjoy brotherhood everyday.❖

Guardain Angel – Blackball BA 551b

By Reginald Altema, BA 694

Beta Alpha lost its guardian, Blackball (551b) in the summer of 2002, to a ruptured tumor in his stomach. The 16-year-old Labrador Husky mix saved two brothers lives during the summer of 1995 when they were held up at gunpoint on the front porch of the chapter house. Sensing something wasn't right Blackball charged down the stairs frightening the mugger, who fired two shots and hit Blackball in the head. The bullet entered between the eyes and exited through his jaw. Blackball soon recovered and continued to live sleeping all day, and begging for food.

Blackball was brought into Beta Alpha in 1987 by Mike Tisdale (551a). He was a transfer brother from the Epsilon Theta Chapter at Seton Hall University. Blackball was brought in to guard the chapter house and he did just that. Most of all Blackball was a loving and loyal dog, to those who came and went or lived at 249 Martin Luther King Blvd. He will forever be remembered and is recognized for his bravery as the only guardian in the Chapter Eternal. ❖

Journey of Hope, Beta Alpha Style

By Benjamin Lerch BA 701

The Journey of Hope is a Pi Kappa Phi event where 65 brothers from across the nation ride their bicycles from San Francisco to Washington DC, spreading awareness and understanding for people with disabilities.



During this rigorous 4100 mile journey the team spreads their message to 140 million people through the media and other events. Each summer this group of brothers known as Pi Alphas raises over \$250,000 for our national PUSH organization. To better the lives of people with disabilities the money is used to build accessibility ramps, to build playgrounds for children in wheelchairs, and to support GAP weekends.

In the summer of 2001, the Beta Alpha chapter supported its first brother to under take the Journey of Hope challenge. Benjamin Lerch BA 701, was accepted into the program in mid February of that year, and thanks to the strong financial and material contributions from our generous Beta Alpha alumni, Benjamin received over \$5000 and a top of the line bicycle by May of that year. Those four months showed the undergrads what a powerful and willing Alumni Beta Alpha has.

Benjamin would like to thank every brother who donated money and especially would like to thank the Board of Oversees for supporting him in this influential life changing experience. As Benjamin prepares to graduate this spring he would like to offer his support to any brother who decides to accept the challenge of the Journey of Hope. ❖

NEW CODE OF ETHICS

This Code of Conduct has been established to help guide every initiated member of the Beta Alpha Chapter of Pi Kappa Phi through their process of lifelong brotherhood. Brothers should strive to abide by these codes as well as uphold them to others who fail to do so.

Every Beta Alpha Brother shall:

- Represent Pi Kappa Phi in a positive and respectful manner
- Strive to achieve a respectful GPA
- Support Brothers in times of hardship and need
- Treat all Brothers with Ultimate Respect
- Do their best to attend all Chapter functions and meetings
- Prevent any tarnishing of our Chapter image
- Maintain their financial obligations to our Chapter and National Organization
- Do their part to keep our Chapter one step above all other Fraternities on Campus
- Teach Associate Members how to become a Brother worthy of wearing ΠΚΦ
- Attend and support PUSH America events
- Attend at least one National Function such as Mid-Year and Supreme Chapter
- Accept and hold at least one Chapter position
- Be responsible for the actions of their guests while they are in the Chapter house
- Treat all Chapter property with respect and dignity
- Always be actively involved in our Chapter, as a student and as an alumni
- Live the ideal of Lifelong Brotherhood

In the past, we have always just followed the general code of ethics as set per the Gold Book. This semester with the help of Brother Paul Foglia, BA 735 we have created one set for Beta Alpha.

diligence period to review and inspect the structure to determine if the building will be able to be converted into a fraternity house, meeting both the building codes and the City of Newark Zoning Regulation. A detailed cost analysis will also be preformed to see if we can support this house financially.

4. Upgrading of the existing chapter house to meet the state fire regulations The deadline for the installation of a fire sprinkler system for a fraternity house is July 2004. We have received a waiver from the state to remain open until this date; therefore the installation of a sprinkler system in the existing structure is the last alternative.

It was decided that since it would not be possible to complete or occupy alternatives 2 or 3 by the required deadline, that the installation of a fire sprinkler system into the existing structure would be a short term solution to this problem and the only feasible alternative at this time. We are actively pursuing quotes for this installation. If you know Mechanical Engineers who design fire protection systems, please have them contact me, as we can use help in determining the type of system to install. I can be reached at jpugliesi@frattaroli.com or work phone 203-359-2235

The committee is made up of the following Alumni: Steve DePalma Chairman, Joseph Manfredi, James Krucher, John Lee, John Pugliesi, and Pat Guerra. Others actively helping the Committee: David White, Tony Tobey, Bill Nichols, Tom Graham, and Chuck Dietz. Thank you to all whom have helped this year. We will be meeting on a regular bases this next year to resolve this issue for the Chapter. We will inform all upon any major changes in the proposed housing for the chapter. ❖

Who would have known?

By Chauncey Levisay BA 729

I never planned on joining a fraternity, but it seems I was destined to become a Pi Kapp. I transferred to NJIT my junior year of college. I was rushed without even knowing I was being rushed and by the time I realized what was happening I had already made up my mind that I wished to become a Pi Kapp.

What strikes me is that I was home the weekend before pinning and I'd been thinking of the wall in my grandmother's house where my grandfather's college achievements hung. My grandfather passed when I was younger and my memories of him are faint, I had an almost identical resemblance to him, and that we had the same mannerisms. That wall means something to me. It makes me proud looking at that wall knowing my grandfather was a national champ in wrestling for Penn State.

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Soon to come www.gopikapp.com – Beta Alpha's web site & already out there www.pikapp.org – National's site.

ALUMNI – UNDERGRADUATE BASKETBALL GAME – DEC 7TH

This date is tentative, but we need to know when the Alumni are free, in the past we have planned events but they have poor turnouts because our schedulers are much different than the alumnus. Please email Ryan Spadaccini the Undergraduate Archon at hoodsurfer@aol.com and let him know of some ideas and days of the week that work best.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

We know that asking for donations is of course a touchy subject, so listed below is all information for the Beta Alpha capital account. This way you can donate as much as you want towards the new house or renovation of our old house. And of course the undergraduates thank any and all donations made.

Beta Alpha Capital Campaign
PO Box 271
Pinebrook, NJ 07058

Pi Kappa Phi – Beta Alpha
249 MLK Blvd.
Newark, NJ 07102
973-643-9466

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

I never realized it before but there was also a paddle and a shingle on the wall as well. My grandfather was in fact a Pi Kapp at Penn State. I am now myself a Pi Kapp. I am now a legacy. However, I can't help to feel that my grandfather had some hand in my joining Pi Kappa Phi. The coincidence that I happened to attend a school with the same fraternity and the fact that I had picked Pi Kapp before knowing my grandfather was a Pi Kapp makes me feel that fate has brought me here along with my grandfather from the chapter eternal. ❖

Push America

By Brandon Sorenson, BA 680

Push America, which started out as the dream of one brother, to help better our communities, has now evolved into its own organization, with the addition of the Journey of Hope, Give a Push Weekends and the newest project, Build America, PUSH has evolved into the premier philanthropic organization in the Greek community. With the Journey of Hope reaching a record year with over 210 million people reached through advertising and media coverage, 106 friendship visits and over \$405,000 raised making it the highest fundraising team of all time. While the mission of Push America has not wavered in its 26 years of existence, its dynamic programs have been ever changing to create awareness among the public to serve its ultimate goal, building leaders of tomorrow by serving people with disabilities today. ❖

BUILD RATE
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