

BETA ALPHA PARTICLES



Exceptional Leaders. Uncommon Opportunities.

ARCHON REPORT

By Matthew Relva BA 794

Greetings! Welcome to Beta Alpha's 2014 Founders Day celebration. My name is Brother Archon Matthew Relva BA 794 and I have had the pleasure to serve as this chapter's president for this past semester. Allow me to fill you in on the ins and outs of the current undergraduate chapter. At the moment, the undergraduate chapter is made up of 34 active members (lowest BA being BA 833). This semester we started with eight associate members, which is the biggest new member class on campus. Along with new associate members, this fall semester we had the pleasure to have Brother Sean Butler BA 737 join the chapter as its Chapter Advisor.

The chapter's main objective for the next few semesters is to reach a chapter size of 50 men. As a chapter we have come a long way over the past two years and we are confident that our recruiting tactics will continue to allow us to expand our chapter while recruiting quality men of class.

This semester we held our PUSH America Bike-a-Thon event. We setup up an informational stand along with a stationary bike in the middle of the Campus Center green and rode the bike for 48 hours. The event was a huge success. We were able to raise close to \$300 through donations of the student body, faculty and our alumni. We also held our first ever Halloween Haunted House in which we setup the house into a spooky maze and walked students through for a few scares. All together we have raised close to \$600 for the semester and we are making great progress to reach our goal of raising \$1000.

Another huge event that took place this semester was our first ever Beta Alpha Chapter visit down to national headquarters in Charlotte, North Carolina. About 23 undergrads and our chapter advisor took a bus down to Charlotte for the weekend. Upon our arrival we were greeted by Brother Steven DePalma and Brother Mark E. Timmes for lunch. We then spent the whole afternoon taking tours of the nation headquarters building and had an informational workshop which focused on our strengths and weaknesses and what we can do to help us become an ideal chapter. This trip was not only very educational but also a great bonding experience for all that attended. We made memories that we will surely remember for the rest of our lives and we look forward to the next opportunity to go back!

In the short time that I have been this chapter's Archon, I have watched the brothers make grand strides towards becoming an ideal chapter. Despite the hardships that we may face, the brothers here stick together and show their true colors of Blue, White, and Gold. There are a lot of challenges for us in the upcoming semesters, but we are confident that we have what it takes to overcome whatever comes our way. In the end our Brotherhood and Beta Alpha is flourishing and will continue to live out the **ritual of fraternity**.

FALL 2014



CONTENTS

- 1 Archon Report
- 2 Chapter Advisor
- 2 Academic Report
- 3 Bike-a-thon
- 3 Haunted House
- 4 Journey of Hope
- 6 National Trip



Changing the Chapter Advisor Guard

By Sean Butler BA 737

For the past several years Dave White has served as Beta Alpha's Chapter Advisor. Previously he served as Historian on the National Council and before that, held the position of Region Governor. For years, Dave has lived the ritual and exemplified what it means to be a man of CLASS. This past semester, after much thought, he decided to step down as BA's Chapter Advisor.

My name is Sean Butler BA 737 and I am Beta Alpha's new Chapter Advisor. I became a member of Beta Alpha in Fall 2003. During my time as an undergraduate I held many positions including Archon, Vice Archon, Secretary, Warden, Chaplain, Philanthropy Chairman, House Manager, Risk Manager & Standards Board President in addition to participating in various committees.

I majored in Architecture, working for Newark-based architectural firm Grad Associates for 4 years until its closure due to the Great Recession. Currently, I work for Five Star Electric Corp., the biggest electrical contractor in New York City. There I have had the honor and privilege to work on 1 World Trade Center, also known as The Freedom Tower, for the past 5 years and counting.

Without Pi Kappa Phi, I would not be where I am today. The only "real" (as in professional) jobs I had were because of the connections I developed through Beta Alpha. The personal qualities & professional skills I learned through holding positions, attending national events & networking have allowed me to be successful. I am grateful for this opportunity to advise these young men and help them strive to become an ideal chapter and development the skills required to be successful in their chosen careers after graduation.

To help me accomplish my goals, I am forming a Chapter Advisor Committee. Presently I have 2 brothers, Christian Beckman BA 776 & David Babb (CUNY Brockport), who are on board or interested in joining my committee. However, I am still looking for 1 or 2 others to join us. If you are interested you can contact me by phone at 717-379-6086 or by email at BetaAlpha-CA@Gmail.com. I look forward to hearing and working with you all.



Academics in the Fraternity

By John Ferns BA 822

Over the past year, the chapter has greatly improved in terms of academics and has been successful in the professional world. In the past year, our chapter improved its rank of 12th to 5th amongst All-Fraternities on Campus. We are now 8th out of the 21 Greek Organizations. Our chapter now has a GPA of 2.98 well above the All-Greek and All-Men GPA. Another great improvement is that last semester we had 19 Brothers make

Dean's List, which is just shy of 50% of the chapter. We also now have a new incentive program of rewarding brothers instead of punishing brothers for doing poorly. We are now aiming to increase our academic standing to above a 3.0 GPA. Our brothers are also greatly involved on campus with a variety of clubs and activities. Some are involved with American Institute for Architecture Students, Habitat for Humanity, Inter-Fraternity Sorority Council and Filipino

Student Association to name a few. Over the summer, Beta Alpha had three brothers study abroad and live in Siena, Italy. They soaked in Italy's as well as Europe's rich architectural history. Many brothers also had internships over the summer, ranging from IT technicians to architectural draftsmen to engineering interns. Beta Alpha is making a great impact on campus and in the real world.



Philanthropy Events

The bi-annual Pi Kappa Phi Bike-a-thon is probably one of our most exciting events, that we look forward to every semester. This event became a tradition at our chapter and school. It is not only a great charitable event where we raise money for the Abilities Experience, its a chance where the brothers of Pi Kappa Phi proudly represent our great fraternity and what we believe in. The Bike-a-thon started on Wednesday October 8th, to take advantage of our school's common hour, and the huge school event on the green. This caused a lot of foot traffic which gave us the chance to raise more money and spread the awareness. With the hardwork and dedication of our brotherhood, we where able to raise a humble amount of \$300 during

the 48 hour cycle. I am not only proud that we whereable to work hard and raise money for a great event. I am also proud that I was able to do this with a group of guys that I could

By Adam Atiyeh BA 821
proudly call my brothers. As the Philanthropy Chairman, I will continue to spread awareness about our cause and our mission.



First Beta Alpha Philanthropy Haunted House

By Henry Drago BA 831

Wanting to showcase their new place on campus, the Beta Alpha chapter of Pi Kappa Phi hosted a haunted house on October 29th, 2014. Opened up to the campus for \$5 admission, proceeds of the event went to their philanthropy, PUSH America. Planning for this endeavor began several weeks prior, spearheaded by brothers Adam Atiyeh and Henry Drago, who led a committee within their organization. The brothers felt it was important to diversify their image, breaking away from traditional philanthropy and social events. "It was a really great opportunity for the brotherhood to come together

and try something different," says Drago about the frightful festivities. Dozens of fellow NJIT students came out to show support and were darkly delight ed by what they encountered. However, the real bump in the night came when smoke detectors went off, activated by fog machines in the house's basement.



Everyone was forced to clear out until the campus authorities responded. Seeing no signs of real danger, officers gave the go-ahead for the rest of the night, making one request: that the fog machines be turned off. Overall, Pi Kappa Phi's Haunted House was a huge success. Brothers and non-brothers alike enjoyed getting into the Halloween spirit, especially in support of such a worthwhile cause.

4000 Miles, 3 Brothers, 1 Mission

By Derek Torres BA 785, Chase Johnson BA 788, Morgan Jones BA 790



During August 2013, three brothers from the Beta Alpha chapter of Pi Kappa Phi decided to commit themselves to a better cause. That cause was to help raise awareness and funds for people with disabilities all around the country. This cause is called The **Journey of Hope**.



Every year, 100 brothers from around the country band together and either cycle or join the crew team where they travel across the country visiting different cities and organizations that support the cause to raise awareness and funds for people with disabilities. This summer event is composed of 3 separate routes with teams of at least 30 brothers on each team. The Trans America Route starts in Seattle, WA, the North Route in San Francisco, CA, and the South Route in Long Beach, CA. Collectively, these teams raised over \$550,000. Over the course of 67 days, these brothers not only help others less fortunate, but also become true men of class. At the end of their journey, they all meet in Washington D.C. to be reunited with family and friends who are proud to welcome these men with open arms.

Derek Torres BA 785, Chase Johnson BA 788, and Morgan Jones BA 790 were the three brothers that decided to take action. It has been well over a decade since Brother Benjamin Lerch BA 701 embarked on The Journey of Hope. It has also been quite some time that someone did at least Gear Up Florida, which was done by both Brothers David White BA 432 and Brandon Sorenson BA 680. These active undergraduates knew something needed to be done in order to create a new legacy within this chapter.

As the chapter continues to grow strong, traditions and leadership need to continue to flourish. These next few pages will allow these three brothers to reflect on their life changing experience with Journey of Hope. This will hopefully inspire future brothers to become "Exceptional Leaders with Uncommon Opportunities". God bless this fraternity and God bless Beta Alpha.

My brothers, over 3 months have gone by and to this day, I feel as if it was just yesterday I was riding with my teammates that I will remember for the rest of my life. Of course, the three of us wanted to create an everlasting legacy within our chapter to continue to be amazing leaders. Morgan and Chase have their own personal reasons why they too embarked on The Journey of Hope. I will tell you my story of why I embarked on this incredible journey. Some of you may know my story while I was fundraising. For those who don't, this is my reason for doing this worthy cause.

When, I was a young boy, I was diagnosed with autism. Doctors said I would never have a normal life and suggested that I should be given up on. 20 years later, I have proved them wrong countless times and have been an outstanding leader not only in my fraternity, but on my campus. I wanted to spread hope and inspiration not only to people with disabilities, but to people with autism as well that nothing is ever impossible. If I can cycle 4,000 miles across the country, they can learn to speak, make friends, have a career, and get an education. The possibilities are endless. Through this journey, I've earned tremendous respect and admiration for my cause not just from my brothers on my team, but from the people I've had an impact on during each friendship visit by giving them hope. I thought that once I became a brother of Pi Kappa Phi, I was surely a man. I was wrong. Because of Journey of Hope, I got to self reflect and allow my brothers to exploit my weaknesses and to truly become fearless in any situation, no matter how challenging it was. I learned that I should be grateful every day for everything that I am able to do. Every person that I met along the tour was smiling just to be alive, even if they could not walk or speak. Because of all these lessons over the summer, this helped me become a true man by also accepting humiliation and being humble. If I could do this every year, I would as this event is so dear to me. I hope that more brothers will grasp this opportunity for years to come as we did this past summer. I am proud to be a Pi Kapp and I am proud to be a Pi Alpha. In conclusion, I leave you with this saying that I remind myself of every day. "Ad Astra Per Aspera", meaning "Through Difficulties To The Stars". Never give up brothers, and keep making this fraternity proud as we have.



• Derek Torres BA 785





We all know what Journey of Hope is and why Pi Kappa Phi with The Ability Experience, formally known as Push America, does it every summer. What many of you may not know is the impact that it has on the individuals who participate in Journey of Hope and how it changes their life. In the beginning of the trip, what motivated me was the act of going across the country on a bike as well as trying to get our chapter more involved in national events. At the start of the trip these goals were enough for me to get on the bike every day and push myself to ride every mile. Although as time went on and saw the smiles and happiness we brought to people, my motivation changed. After a few

weeks, the trip stopped being about riding my bike every day; for me the bike just became a mode of transportation from one city to the next. Journey of Hope became about the friendship visits and it also became about the culture that was created between all the brothers on the trip with me. Our friendship visits were the highlight of every day; every visit was filled with smiles and laughter, not only from the participants we visited but also every guy on the trip with me. One of the things I miss most is the brothers I did my trip with, the thirty four other guys that came together and created a culture that I will never forget. From this trip I have learned that no matter how big a task is, it can be done in small pieces. I have ultimately learned that Pi Kappa Phi has created something amazing in Journey of Hope; which is that every person in this world deserves to smile every day, and that "The only disability in life is a bad attitude" –Scott Hamilton.

• Chase Johnson BA 788

On August 2nd, a yearlong cycle of preparation finally culminated as Brothers Derek Torres BA 785, Chase Johnson BA 788 and I safely rode in to our final destination- the steps of our nation's Capital. We were greeted in true Beta Alpha fashion by Alumni Stephen DePalma BA 322, James Krucher BA 341, John Pugliesi BA 402, and now fellow Pi Alpha's Dave White BA 432 and Brandon Sorensen BA 680. I am truly humbled by my journey over the summer: it was more than riding bikes, volunteering my time with people with disabilities, donating money to organizations, meeting 32 other brothers of Pi Kappa Phi from across the nation, it was about developing myself as a leader and appreciating the opportunities I have experienced to impact people. I could not have done it without the donations from 28 Beta Alpha Brothers, 24 friends, 10 family members, and the countless hours of support from my undergraduate brothers while I trained. One thing I take away from this trip- America is one of the most diverse countries, yet no matter what state you're in people will always appreciate three things: volunteerism, determination, and fraternity among a young group of men.

• Morgan Jones BA 790



Chapter Road Trip to the National Office

By Jerhard Evangelista BA 823



For the first time in Beta Alpha History, we as a chapter had the opportunity to visit the heart and soul of the Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity.

24 men on October 17th, 2014 took a 10 hour bus ride down Charlotte, North Carolina to explore the National Headquarters. It was midnight and I remember rushing down to the house to board the bus which I would be traveling in for 10 plus hours. Excitement had filled my face upon seeing the coach park right on Warren Street waiting for the chapter to embark on this journey. Upon entering the bus, all the brothers had their pillows and laptops out, ready to endure the long trip. Music was playing on the way down, brothers were singing songs, and the bonding experience was like no other. We stopped at multiple spots along the way including McDonalds and a Sheetz. These stops made me realize how close we were as a chapter

even if these breaks were small and meaningless. We joked around, ate together, and even told stories of our experiences throughout this journey.

Around 11am that Saturday morning we pulled up to the Marriot Garden Inn. Brother Stephen DePalma BA 322 greeted us and supplied us with our itinerary for the day. As we glanced down at our schedules we noticed that lunch was the first task to be completed. With the camera in my hand I was ready to document every moment that we spent together. Once we entered our hotel rooms, we all had to freshen up and prepare ourselves for the day. Greeted by Brother Mark E. Timmes and the smell of fresh food, seating at the restaurant was set up and awaited our mouths to eat whatever came out in front of us. The food was absolutely delicious and we were glad to have a meal that did not consist of McNuggets or French fries. After lunch, we then made our short walk towards the Kelley A. Bergstrom Leadership Center.



Brother Mark E. Timmes gave us a brief background on the design of the town square and lead us to the front of the Pi Kappa Phi building. A large banner hung off the balcony railing welcoming our chapter. Group pictures were taken and the sense of Pi Kapp pride was in the air. The interior of the building was just as inviting as the exterior.



Pi Kappa Phi memorabilia lined the walls and partitions as there were many collectibles that most of the brothers never seen before. We were thrilled learning more about our national fraternity and excited to sit down with the CEO for a seminar about our chapter. Brother Timmes then ushered us into the meeting room were we sat and learned more about the future plans for the fraternity.

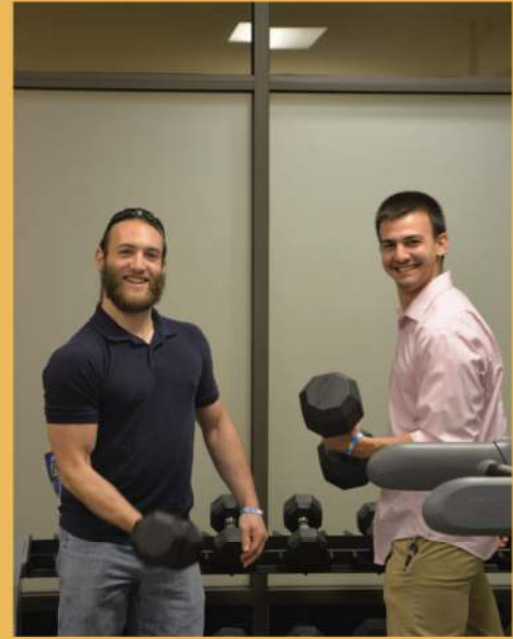




After the seminar, we got a more in depth tour around the headquarters and noticed the small details that the fraternity does not advertise outside of the office. Our second seminar lead by Brother Justin Angotti was to help improve our chapter and point out our strengths/weaknesses. We took home papers that visually displayed what we needed to work on and what excelled on terms of our chapters overall performance.

This seminar helped open our eyes and the EC immediately took it into effect the next meeting. Dinner arrived briefly after and the brothers got a taste of southern comfort food. Delicious ribs, chicken, beans, rice, and mac & cheese filled the room with an aroma that could only be discovered down south. Filled with all the food, we then headed back to the hotel to spend quality time with brothers and enjoy the rest of the night before our trek back home.

Breakfast the next morning had us set for the bus ride and it was a bittersweet moment leaving the headquarters. We enjoyed our time at North Carolina and hope that future generations of our chapter could experience the same journey we made. On behalf of the undergraduate chapter, I would like to thank the national officers, our wonderful alumni, and whoever contributed to making this dream trip a reality.





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- Historian Jerhard Evangelista BA 823
- House Manager Kyle Wolverton BA 811
- Push Chairman Adam Atiyeh BA 821
- Chapter Advisor Sean Butler BA 737

